VIOLENCE IN GREECE OVER SHOOTING, PG 9

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Move on to replace Dion

POLITICS Michael Ignatieff could be crowned Liberal leader in a matter of days.

The Toronto-area MP is expected to emerge the victor from a stripped-down leadership contest designed to get a new leader in place by the end of January for Parliament's return.

It now appears current leader Stéphane Dion will step aside and Ignatieff will be appointed "interim" leader of the Liberal party at Wednesday's caucus meeting.

There's expectation that one of Ignatieff's rivals, New Brunswick MP Dominic LeBlanc, would drop out of the race, perhaps as early as today.

However, supporters of Bob Rae (Toronto Centre), Ignatieff's major rival, are said to be divided about their next step and whether to cede the leadership to Ignatieff. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Spirit of giving

Big guy's back in town

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Santa Claus waves to the crowd on Georgia Street yesterday during the fifth annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade. About 300,000 people took in the parade, which raised more than 10,000 pounds of food for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Story, page 6

Robertson to be sworn in as mayor today

CITY HALL Vancouver's mayor-elect Gregor Robertson will be sworn in as the city's new civic leader today, officially ending Sam Sullivan's three-year term.

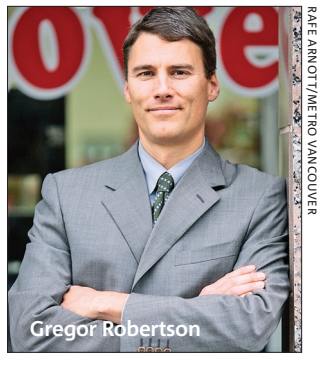
In his first media address after his November election, the Happy Planet founder — who's known to cycle to press conferences — promised immediate changes at city hall.

Robertson vowed to make the fight against homelessness his priority immediately after taking office, vowing to put together a special task force this week in his bid to end homelessness in Vancouver by 2015.

One short-term, low-cost solution he's suggested is using vacant land owned by the city and converting it to emergency housing.

During his campaign, Robertson also promised to hold a public meeting within the next month to expose the details of the $100-million Olympic Village loan deal.

He's also suggested axing Sam Sullivan's Downtown Ambassador's Program — which provides hospitality assistance and crime prevention services downtown — and Project Civil City. **KRISTEN THOMPSON /METRO VANCOUVER**



RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Gregor Robertson

Quest for needed food

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

The economic downturn is causing a bellyache for B.C.'s only food-recovery and exchange program.

In the past several months, Quest Food Exchange has experienced a nine per cent decrease in food and monetary donations. Over the same period, they've experienced an increase in food demand of seven to eight per cent.

Quest programs help feed 70,000 people a month and divert between 3,000 and 4,000 tonnes of food from the landfill every year. The amount rescued is only one per cent of the wasted food in B.C.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

"If we don't have enough food, we cannot meet the needs of these people ... And we know there is a lot of food available."
Quest's Rafi Charif

"The economy is in bad shape and there is more demand for food," said Rafi Charif, who handles partnership development with Quest.

"If we don't have enough food, we cannot meet the needs of these people and they will get less food. And we know there is a lot of food available."

For the past two decades, Quest Food Exchange has been rescuing food from grocers, restaurant and caterers that is slightly damaged or about to expire and supplying it to social-service agencies like outreach programs and shelters.

Quest also prepares meals for agencies in its kitchen and operates a low-cost grocery store for referred clients.

But while the economic situation has increased the number of people needing food, it has also reduced the amount of food coming in as suppliers tighten their belts.

"We need to reach more suppliers to partner with us to help these people, especially for the Christmas period," said Charif.

For more information or to donate to Quest visit *questoutreach.org*.

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Celebrity Buzz pg 22

Milano files for restraint

On the web
Afghanistan coverage
• See metronews.ca/canada

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Port Coquitlam has record Facebook fan club
Port Coquitlam's Facebook page has attracted more than 500 "fans" — reportedly the largest number of fans for any city-run Facebook page in North America. Sixty per cent of the page's fans are under 34, an age group typically less likely to be interested in municipal government. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Green, Song hit the slopes
Comedian Tom Green and actress Steph Song skied Whistler Mountain this weekend to experience a Canadian-made, zero-sound, zero-emission environmentally sustainable snow vehicle. Green and Song are attending the eighth annual Whistler Film Festival to promote their films Freezer Burn: The Invasion of Laxdale and Dim Sum Funeral. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

STABBING A 37-year-old woman is in police custody after a 40-year-old man was slashed in the neck in Vancouver, news1130.com reports. The victim was treated for non-life threatening injuries.

DEATH Surrey RCMP say they're treating the death of a man found at a recycling depot as suspicious. An employee discovered the man, whose name and cause of death have not been determined.

METRO VANCOUVER

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read Guidy Mamann's latest analysis of immigration issues at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 5 **Lotto Super 7:** 8, 9, 14, 16, 18, 29 & 42 Bonus 35 **Extra:** 2, 14, 32, 47
Saturday, Dec. 6 **Lotto 6/49:** 4, 8, 29, 37, 40 & 48 Bonus 45 **BC 49:** 8, 10, 17, 25, 27, 42 Bonus 36 **Extra:** 49, 50, 59, 85
These results are not official.

Complex's residents rally

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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In the four years Susan Wagner has lived at the Little Mountain housing complex, she's seen the community shrink from several hundred residents to just 19 families.

Yesterday, Wagner, her remaining neighbours, and invited artists and activists gathered at the low-income housing complex near Queen Elizabeth Park to protest the development's planned demolition through art.

Housing Art-In/tervention participants painted plywood on the boarded-up windows, many of them adding faces behind curtains, as if people were in the empty buildings.

Wagner said tenants are being pressured to move out and now around 200 homes are vacant in preparation for condo construction that won't start for two to three years.

"These homes have been boarded up to look like they're uninhabitable," said Wagner, a mother of two. "But they're perfectly livable."

She said the boards felt like "an attack" on those who were left. "I woke up one morning and there was plywood on my porch. And we're still living there."

Linda Shuto, with Community Activists For Little Mountain, said the plan was to redevelop after 2010, but the project's already a year behind.

NDP homeless critic Jenny Kwan has questioned whether it will even go ahead in light of the economic crisis.

"No one's fighting the redevelopment," said Shuto. "In the immediate term, these homes should be reopened and used by families who need them until there's a development plan in place."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Susan Wagner, one of around 20 people left living at Little Mountain housing complex, seen outside her home yesterday.

"These homes have been boarded up ... but they're perfectly livable."
Susan Wagner

Asian stem-cell, marrow donors sought in drive

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

With almost 50 per cent of its population identifying themselves as Chinese-Canadian, where better than Richmond to host an awareness campaign highlighting the need for more Chinese stem-cell donor registrants?

According to One Match Stem Cell and Marrow Network, 6.3 per cent of Canadians searching for a stem-cell or bone-marrow donor are Asian, as opposed to 4.5 per cent of registered donors.

To increase their chances of finding donors, One Match held an awareness drive at the Richmond Public Library yesterday, hoping to encourage passers-by to register on the spot.

The event was expected to reach out to some of the 381,500 Chinese Canadians living in Metro Vancouver. OneMatch also provides materials in Cantonese and Mandarin.

DIPLOMA PROGRAMS*

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Help for a blue Christmas

Free depression and anxiety services are being offered by the Provincial Health Services Authority to Lower Mainlanders fighting the holiday blues. The organization is offering workshops, seminars books and online resources. For more information visit heretohelp.bc.ca. **METRO VANCOUVER**

News in brief

TRANSIT As Transit Police celebrates its third anniversary, Chief Ward Clapham says the goal for 2009 is to further increase the visibility of the force's more than 150 officers. Calling it "reassurance policing," Clapham said the latest enhancement is the training of 10 officers on police mountain bikes.

BUDGET TransLink forecasts it'll need $103 million of its reserves — almost a third of its savings — to pay for expenditures in 2009. The money will be used as part of a $1.3 billion budget that includes the launch of the Canada Line, the introduction of a third SeaBus, more buses and seven additional West Coast Express Cars. It also plans to spend $4 million to install security cameras on 522 buses. **METRO VANCOUVER**

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Mayor Sullivan spins goodbye

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

In his last public appearance as mayor of Vancouver, Sam Sullivan replicated the flag spin that made him famous around the world.

Sullivan's three years as mayor (and 15 years on Vancouver city council) end today with the inauguration of mayor-elect Gregor Robertson and a new Vision-dominated council.

"I just have a feeling of gratitude to the people of Vancouver for giving me the blessing of being mayor and on city council," said Sullivan, adding that he's leaving office free of regret.

"I've started basically everything that I wanted to … I would have loved to have seen more of the social housing completed by now, but it does take a while.

"The fact I won't be mayor when they are all completed is not really a regret. I feel very good that I initiated a lot of them and they will bear fruit."

"I just have a feeling of gratitude to the people of Vancouver for giving me the blessing of being mayor."
Mayor Sam Sullivan

As a private citizen for the first time in a decade and a half, Sullivan said he hopes to continue to promote new ways of dealing with drug addiction and mental health.

He said he has lots of projects that he's working on and hinted that he may soon make an announcement about his future plans.

For many, the highlight of Sullivan's term came during the conclusion of the 2006 Torino Games.

The image of Sullivan twirling in his wheelchair with the Oslo (Winter Olympic) flag flapping behind him thrust him into a worldwide spotlight.

Thousands of articles were written about the event and the mayor's office received a deluge of mail from people who were inspired by Vancouver's mayor.

In his last public appearance yesterday, Sullivan channeled that Torino moment.

Wearing a maroon windbreaker with 'Canada' written on it, Sullivan spun down Georgia and Howe streets, waving a large Canadian flag using the same attachment that he used in Torino.

He handed out candy canes that read: "Thank you for giving me the honour."

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Sam Sullivan waves a Canadian flag on Georgia Street yesterday during the fifth annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade. The event was Sullivan's last public appearance as mayor.

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Activists demand better transit
Opponents of the Gateway Highway Expansion Project marched through the streets of Surrey yesterday to mark the Global Day of Action on Climate Crisis. Participants demanded better transit in lieu of more roads. METRO VANCOUVER

Crowds weather the storm for Santa

Dancers perform during the Rogers Santa Claus Parade along Georgia Street yesterday.

PHOTOS BY JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A juggler entertains the crowds on Georgia Street.

Rainfall doesn't damper parade

JEFF HODSON
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PARADE Despite ferocious rainfall only two hours before, about 300,000 people gathered in downtown Vancouver yesterday to watch the city's fifth annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade.

The event, which featured music, dancers, horses, marching bands, pipe bands and floats, also brought in more than 10,000 pounds of food for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank.

"Being part of the Rogers Santa Claus Parade each year is inspiring," said Cheryl Prepchuk, CEO of the Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society.

The parade also raised monetary donations for the food bank, though the amount raised wasn't available at press time.

Prepchuk said each dollar donated is turned into $3 worth of nutritious food.

In all, an estimated 60 groups took part in the parade that wound down Georgia Street from Broughton Street, and along Howe Street to Davie Street.

Left: Shannon Boyer and Cassius, 2, donate money to a volunteer collecting for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Right: Timbit hockey players ride a float yesterday.

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(b) possess or use a security alarm system without holding an alarm permit for such system issued under this By-law.

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Program Overview: In an effort to reduce false alarms, the City of Vancouver implemented Security Alarm Bylaw No. 7111 on July 5th, 1993. Under the Bylaw **a Permit is mandatory for any premise with an alarm system, whether monitored or not, within the City of Vancouver.** It is an alarm user's responsibility to purchase/renew an alarm permit annually. There are three classifications of Alarm Permits currently priced as follows: Residential - $17.55, Small Commercial (with premises less than 140 square metres in size) - $29.25, and Large Commercial with premises greater than 140 square metres in size) - $58.50.

For more information please contact:
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Phone: (604) 871-6150 Fax: (604) 871- 6152
For more information about Security Alarm System Bylaw No. 7111,
please check out the City of Vancouver website at: www.vancouver.bc.ca

Bedouin Soundclash play free concert outside Insite
Juno Award-winning rock band Bedouin Soundclash performed a free street concert outside Vancouver's supervised injection site on Saturday to mark Insite's fifth anniversary. In October, the band's first attempt to play outside the clinic was shut down by police. METRO VANCOUVER

Police find 10% of stolen toys, food

SALVATION ARMY Vancouver police have recovered about 10 per cent of the toys and food stolen from the Salvation Army last week.

After receiving tips from the public, detectives searched an eastside home where they found eight of the more than 80 stolen boxes of toys. The stolen goods are worth almost $25,000, according to VPD Const. Tim Fanning. Two women aged 25 and 39, as well as a 57-year-old man were arrested at the house. They were questioned and released, but may face charges later after police conclude the investigation. The stolen meat was thrown away because it may not be safe to eat. METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

PLANE The pilot of a small plane that crash-landed in the waters off the Sunshine Coast escaped uninjured, CBC News Online reports. The plane had left Pitt Meadows on Friday and was en route to Nanaimo when the single engine on the aircraft quit. The Transportation Safety Board is investigating.

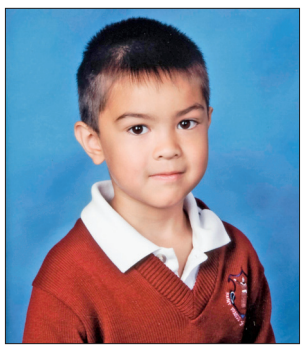
GROWTH B.C. has lowered its economic growth projections, Finance Minister Colin Hansen said. He listed the possibility of a prolonged U.S. recession, continued turmoil in world financial markets and slowing demand for B.C. products as reasons.

CRASH A 17-year-old boy is dead after he drove into a hydro pole on 200 Street in Langley, news1130.com reports. His 18-year-old passenger was taken to hospital and police are considering speed, alcohol and road conditions as factors in the crash. METRO VANCOUVER

Making a difference

Family of two young boys killed in crash donate organs

The two boys killed in a car crash on the HOV lane of Highway 1 last week have donated their organs, their father said in a statement released by B.C. Children's Hospital.


Matthew

Andrew

"It has been a great comfort and joy to know that as organ donors Andrew and Matthew have helped others live and made a difference to a number of families," said their father, who did not provide his name to the media.

Andrew, 9, and Matthew, 6, died when their parents' minivan was rear-ended by a BMW after it stalled on the high-occupancy vehicle lane of Highway 1 on Nov. 29.

Their brother Karl, 8, remains in hospital in serious condition. Their grandmother and her sister are also in hospital fighting for their lives.

"On behalf of my wife, children and family, I'd like to express my deepest appreciation for all the good wishes and prayers for us from so many people," the father said in the statement. "Andrew and Matthew are gone, but just from our sight. One day, with God's grace, I hope to be with them again." METRO VANCOUVER

Trust fund

- A trust fund has been set up for the family with HSBC in the name of the family's church, St. Francis of Assisi. Cheques should be made out to St. Francis of Assisi church, account number 270-324062-080.

Coroner connects DNA on detached feet

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
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FINDINGS Two detached feet found separately on Lower Mainland beaches have been linked through DNA analysis, the B.C. Coroners Service has confirmed.

The findings help shed some light on the origins of the six feet that have washed ashore here and made headlines around the world.

The latest matched feet are female, with the right foot found on Kirkland Island on May 22 and the left found Nov. 11 in Richmond. The woman's identity has not yet been determined.

Another pair of male feet were also matched on July 10. A right foot found in August of last year on Jedediah Island near Parksville has been identified, but that information is being withheld at the request of the family.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Remains found inside this shoe on Kirkland Island on May 22 belonging to an unidentified woman have been matched with remains found inside a second New Balance shoe found in Richmond on Nov. 11.

In all cases, it appears that the feet became naturally separated from the body, likely due to water temperature, decomposition and predation from fish and other marine life. There are no signs of trauma on the remains.

Investigations by the RCMP, Delta Police and the B.C. Coroners Service continue.

Quattro 1 projecting to open in March

DESTROYED A tentative move-in date has been set for some buyers of a Surrey condo development where one of the towers was destroyed by a massive fire in October.

Quattro 1 is expected to be complete by the end of March, while the completion timeline for Quattro 2, which was destroyed in the fire, is still being determined.

Quattro is a five-phase development billed as affordable high-end housing. Quattro 1 sold out in under four hours and Quattro 2 sold out in 67 minutes.

The police and fire department investigation into the cause of the fire is still underway. METRO VANCOUVER

Helicopter rescues hiker lost on Cypress Mountain

HELICOPTER A man who went missing while hiking on Cypress Mountain was rescued by helicopter yesterday afternoon.

Larry Leung called 911 on Saturday evening after getting lost on Hollyburn-Mountain. He spent the night outdoors before North Shore Search and Rescue crews located him.

The 57-year-old man, who said he is embarrassed by the ordeal, told CBC News he "made a couple of mistakes" and is grateful to his rescuers.

Leung said he originally planned for a short outing and that he didn't tell anyone where he was going. He added that he was lucky it wasn't a cold night. METRO VANCOUVER

PAIRS PERFECTLY WITH STAYING UP ALL NIGHT ASSEMBLING A DOLLHOUSE.

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Calgary man found guilty of murder

After deliberating for five days, a jury has convicted a Calgary man of second-degree murder for shooting his friend, Brian Kullman, to death in 2006. Bill James Pappas, 41, was found guilty on Saturday of killing Kullman, a businessman and well-known member of the city's cycling community, according to media reports. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Bang the drum slowly

Jagjit Singh of Brampton, Ont., recently received a certificate for the Guinness World Record for Longest Drumming Marathon — Individual following his 110 hours of tabla tapping in 2007. He's now trying to break his own record.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tory consultant bill at $917M

Conservative total nearly double that of previous Liberal government

The Conservative government spent almost $1 billion on consultants in its first two years in office — nearly double what the Liberals spent in a similar time period, an investigation shows.

Consultants with expertise in strategy, communications, policy, executive hiring, professional speaking, training and information technology were among the companies that benefited from the Conservative spending spree, an analysis of thousands of government records shows.

The biggest surge was in the use of management consultants to run government programs, such as the supervision and collection of federal student loans.

A spokesperson for the Prime Minister's Office has not responded to requests for an interview.

When in Opposition, the Conservatives frequently criticized the Liberals for high spending on government contracts, travel and hospitality.

The investigation found that, in its first two years in power (2006-2008), the Conservative government signed consulting contracts worth about $917 million.

That's a 42 per cent increase over the $534 million in consulting contracts signed in the last two years of the Liberal government (2004-2006).

The biggest jump for the Conservatives came with a $271-million contract with Resolve Corporation, which was hired to manage the government's national student-loan program.

The additional increase of $112 million over the Liberal period was made up of a myriad of smaller consulting contracts.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Funding for speakers

- It was also found that the Conservatives hired more speakers through agencies, though no details were provided on who the speakers were or what they talked about. The investigation found $100,000 was paid to known professional speaking companies like Speakers Spotlight and Spellbinders Speakers Group.

MATHIEU BELANGER/REUTERS

Quebec's premier Jean Charest speaks yesterday at a rally in Quebec City. Quebecers go to the polls in a provincial election today.

Charest poised to win Quebec majority

POLITICS Quebec Premier Jean Charest is poised for his third consecutive win today, with the fallout from Ottawa's ongoing crisis appearing to have strengthened both the federalist Liberal premier and the sovereignist Bloc Québécois.

When Prime Minister Stephen Harper lashed out last week at the Bloc for "trying to break up the country" by supporting the Liberal-NDP coalition, there were brief signs his perceived Quebec-bashing would push votes to the flagging Parti Québécois and leader Pauline Marois.

But polls continue to show Charest on the verge of turning a minority into a healthy majority. A thousand Montrealers who showed up to cheer Bloc leader Gilles Duceppe at a coalition rally on a cold Christmas-shopping Saturday largely expressed support for Charest.

"He hasn't made any major gaffes and a lot of people are fed up with the PQ," said teacher Jean-Michel Régimbal, 37, at the rally organized by Quebec's major unions. "I'm here because I am against the federal Conservatives and what they did."

"(Charest) hasn't made any major gaffes and a lot of people are fed up with the PQ."
Jean-Michel Régimbal

Régimbal argued that, if anything, Harper helped Charest because "he represents stability and that's what Quebecers want."

Pauline Poupart, a pensioner, said it's "scandalous what Mr. Harper did, pitting Canadians against Quebecers." She will vote for Charest because she thinks he's been a good premier.

Daniel Valiquette, a community organizer in his 40s, plans to vote for the PQ today. But he, too, said he's "disgusted" with Harper.

"With 49 Bloc MPs in Ottawa, Quebecers know they are well represented in Ottawa and they can do whatever they want in Quebec City," he said. "You know, frankly, one might say it's a game."

Duceppe campaigned Saturday with Marois.

"It's a little bit of a contradiction that I'm here," said Péquiste Valiquette, referring to a rally for a federal coalition. "But Duceppe made it clear the Bloc made its decision due only to extraordinary economic circumstances."

He thinks both the coalition — and Harper's reaction last week — has boosted the Bloc's future in Ottawa and damaged the prospects of federalist parties from Quebec, an outcome that could make a future majority government in Ottawa even more elusive.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Solemn road home for soldiers

AFGHANISTAN Tens of thousands of people are expected to line Canada's Highway of Heroes today to pay tribute to the three soldiers killed in Afghanistan, marking their sacrifice and the grim milestone of 100 Canadian soldiers killed on active duty there.

The bodies of Warrant Officer Robert John Wilson, Pte. Demetrios Diplaros and Cpl. Mark Robert McLaren — victims Friday of an explosive device near Kandahar — will make the now-familiar journey from CFB Trenton to a coroner's morgue in downtown Toronto.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

READ Metro's coverage of Afghanistan at **metronews.ca/canada**

Internet distractions getting to students

While studying for an exam on American foreign policy the other night, Jonathan Tsao noticed his friends were all playing the "Page 56 game" on Facebook.

In the online diversion sweeping campus laptops this exam season, cramweary students turn to page 56 of the text they are reading, look up the fifth line and make those words their "status," the buzz phrase that goes beneath their name.

"It's just some random sentence, but you get this sense of camaraderie from knowing all these poor souls are out there studying just like you," said the fourth-year political science major at the University of Toronto.

If only they were just studying.

The truth, say university counsellors, is that Facebook and MSN and World of Warcraft and 24-hour news feeds and Twitters and blogs are an addiction that has made hitting the books harder than it ever has been before. Students are getting wired from being so wired.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Addiction

- Internet addiction is one of the largest sources of anxiety for students, says Nellie Perret, a counsellor at the University of Toronto.

News in brief

GUANTANAMO BAY In six weeks, Barack Obama will be inaugurated as U.S. president, and he has already vowed to shut the U.S. naval prison at Guantanamo Bay. While he has not outlined what that means for the 250 prisoners, it's widely anticipated he will halt ongoing military trials, including that of Canadian Omar Khadr.

BABY BONUS The province of Newfoundland and Labrador has paid out $3 million in baby bonuses this year, CBC News Online reports. The province enacted a $1,000 bonus for the adoption or birth of a child, and 3,000 people have applied so far. The program, intended to boost the province's population is budgeted for $4.5 million.

CHILD SUPPORT Debtors' prisons may generally be a thing of the past, but not when it comes to parents who refuse to pay child support. In a 3-0 ruling Friday, the Ontario Court of Appeal said judges have the power to order parents jailed for failing to comply with temporary support orders — made after someone has fallen behind in payments, but before a full court hearing into their ability to pay.

DISMISSAL The union for two Winnipeg paramedics who were fired after being accused of soliciting prostitutes while on the job says they were wrongfully dismissed and it may take the case to the city, CBC News Online reports. Travis Hildebrand, president of the Professional Paramedic Association of Winnipeg, says it's too early to discuss details of the case.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Taliban urges western troops to leave Afghanistan
Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar urged western forces yesterday to take a "golden opportunity" to leave Afghanistan before thousands of their troops were killed in the Islamist group's renewed insurgency. REUTERS

World

World's largest ceviche

Peruvian chefs, elbow deep in almost seven tons of diced fish, onions and lime, yesterday smashed the Guinness record for the world's largest ceviche, a Peruvian seafood specialty. The dish, made from raw fish marinated in lime juice that "cooks" it, weighed in at 6.8 tons, more than two tons bigger than the previous record. REUTERS

Rioters rampage in Greece

Protests turn violent over police shooting death of teen

Thousands of youths tore through Athens and the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki yesterday, burning dozens of shops and vehicles in a second day of rioting after police shot dead a 15-year-old boy.

Greece's worst protests in years erupted in the capital late Saturday after the shooting of the teenager, and quickly spread to Thessaloniki and the tourist islands of Crete and Corfu.

The conservative government appealed for calm, but leftist demonstrators and anarchists went on the rampage for a second day, staging running battles with security forces yesterday.

Police said more than 34 people had been injured, including one woman with a serious head wound, while 20 were detained.

Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis pledged action in a public apology to the father of the dead boy.

"I know nothing can relieve your pain, but I assure you … the state will act, as it ought to, so that yesterday's tragedy won't be repeated," he said.

Residents in the bohemian district of Exarchia where the violence erupted left candles and flowers at the spot where police shot the boy, identified as Alexandros Grigoropoulos.

Two police officers were charged over the shooting, one with premeditated manslaughter and the other with abetting him.

A police statement said one officer fired three shots after their car was attacked by a group of 30 youths in Exarchia.

A police official said the officer described his fire as warning shots, but witnesses told Greek TV he took aim at the boy. REUTERS

YIORGOS KARAHALIS/REUTERS

A protester throws a stone at policemen during riots in Athens yesterday.

Muslims ask for forgiveness at hajj climax

SAUDI ARABIA More than two million Muslim pilgrims gathered around a mountain east of Mecca yesterday at the peak of the hajj to beg God's forgiveness, chanting, "Oh God, I am answering your call."

At noon, pilgrims were still trickling into the area filled with thousands of tents in the plain of Arafat, 15 kilometres east of Mecca, where they will pray until sunset.

Men in white seamless robes and veiled women in long dresses wept with emotion under the desert sun while sprinklers on top of towering posts sprayed water to cool the air. The weather was mild by Saudi standards at around 30 C.

AHMED JADALLAH/REUTERS

A look at Muslim pilgrims outside Mecca yesterday.

"Being here is better than anything I had ever experienced … better than the time I saw my children for the first time," said Rawya Mohammad, a secretary from Egypt.

The hajj retraces the path of the Prophet Mohammad 14 centuries ago after he removed pagan idols from Mecca, his birthplace, and years after he started calling people to the new faith, now embraced by more than one billion people worldwide. REUTERS

> **"Being here is better than anything I had ever experienced."**
> Rawya Mohammad

News in brief

AUTOS Senate Banking Committee chairman Christopher Dodd said yesterday General Motors Corp. chief executive Rick Wagoner should resign to allow new leadership to restructure the faltering company.

POLITICS French President Nicolas Sarkozy drew angry protest from China yesterday over a meeting with Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, with Beijing warning of broader damage to relations with the European Union.

JAPAN Support for Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso slid more than 15 points to around 25 per cent in a poll released yesterday that also showed voters unhappy with his decision to delay measures to prop up the sagging economy.

IRAN President-elect Barack Obama said yesterday he was prepared to offer Iran economic incentives to stop its nuclear program, but he also warned that sanctions could be toughened if it refused. REUTERS

Pakistan raids camp of group blamed for Mumbai attacks

OPERATION Pakistani security forces yesterday raided a camp used by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), two sources said, in a strike against the militant group blamed by India for last month's deadly attacks on Mumbai.

Local man Nisar Ali told Reuters the operation began in the afternoon in Shawai on the outskirts of Muzaffarabad, the capital of the Pakistani side of disputed Kashmir region.

"I don't know details as the entire area was sealed off, but I heard two loud blasts in the evening after a military helicopter landed there," Ali said.

LeT background

- LeT was formed with the help of Pakistan's intelligence agencies to fight Indian rule in Kashmir, but analysts say it is now part of a global Islamist militant scene.

An official with the Jamaat-ud-Dawa charity, which is linked to LeT, said security forces had taken over the camp.

India has demanded Pakistan take swift action over what it says is the latest anti-India militant attack emanating from Pakistani soil. No comment on the raid was immediately available from Indian officials.

At least 171 people were killed during the three-day assault last month across Mumbai, India's financial capital, which has imperilled the improving ties between the south Asian nuclear rivals. REUTERS

Obama says collapse of U.S. automakers is not an option

INDUSTRY U.S. President-elect Barack Obama said yesterday that the struggling U.S. auto industry could not be allowed to collapse, but that any bailout would require a complete restructuring.

"I don't think it's an option to simply allow it to collapse," Obama said in a taped interview on NBC's Meet the Press program.

"What we have to do is to provide them with assistance, but that assistance is conditioned on them making significant adjustments. They are going to have to restructure and all of their stakeholders are going to have to restructure," Obama said. REUTERS

Bomb hits police, patrolmen in Iraq as they lift barricades

ATTACK A bomb went off yesterday, wounding 35 police and neighbourhood patrolmen in the volatile northern Iraqi city of Baquba as they were ceremoniously dismantling security barriers to show that violence was on the decline.

Twenty-nine of the wounded were police, including a police commander of Diyala province, Lt.-Col. Raghib al-Umairi, police said.

Also wounded was the Baquba city mayor, Abdullah al-Hiyali.

The police officers and officials had been removing concrete barriers placed across downtown streets in Baquba two years ago, when ethnic and sectarian bloodshed raged across both Iraq and the city.

> **"They were all walking together. That's why we had so many wounded."**
> Ali Abu Shahad

"They were just walking along in a group when they reached an electrical appliance store," said Ali Abu Shahad, a Sunni Arab patrolman who witnessed the blast. "Suddenly a powerful blast happened. The front of the store was totally destroyed."

"They were all walking together. That's why we had so many wounded," Shahad said. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Best in buyer's remorse

HineSight

Anne Hines

Harvey reports, "The stupidest thing I ever bought was a weight-loss book called The Grapefruit Diet." His second dumbest purchase? Twenty pounds of grapefruit.

Last week, I wrote about a foolish, impulsive purchase I recently made — a birdbath heater. I invited you all to e-mail me tales of your silliest purchases.

Here are the results:

• 43 per cent of e-mails received came from readers wanting to know where they too could buy a birdbath heater. A special shout-out to Bruce in Dartmouth, who reported he'd gone online and sourced out several different models of heaters. This is diligent, resourceful work, Bruce. It's missing the point of the exercise entirely, but it's diligent and resourceful.

• 21 per cent of respondents shared charming stories of the birdbath heaters they already own and how happy their birds are.

• 0.5 per cent of readers objected to my being gay. Mom, stop sending me e-mails about this.

From those who actually weighed in, here's a cross-country sampling of "less than intelligent purchases we've made."

Chantal from Calgary says the most foolish thing she ever bought was a marriage licence.

"I should have known it was a dumb idea," she said. "It was my third one."

Roman (Ottawa) says he regrets spending money on newspapers, "Since I realized I could get this great paper, the Metro, for free." Ahhhh…

Jennifer (Vancouver) admits to buying a Tile Titan, an electrical device that uses steam to blast bathroom tile scum.

"It made so much steam, my bottle labels fell off. I accidentally washed my hair with body wash for a week. It also removed strips of the bathroom wallpaper."

The only thing not affected? The tile scum.

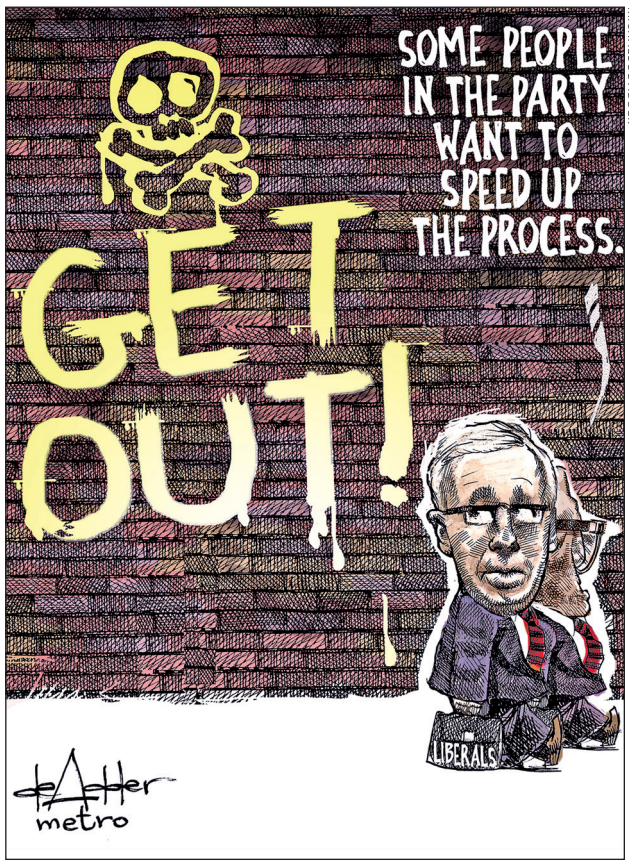
Harvey (Victoria) reports, "The stupidest thing I ever bought was a weight-loss book called The Grapefruit Diet." His second dumbest purchase? Twenty pounds of grapefruit. "By the fourth day, I couldn't stand the sight of them. Fortunately it was Halloween so I just handed them out to the kids. They hated them, too."

Carol (Toronto) bought a fashionable chef's cookbook that insisted no cook should be without a mortar and pestle. She lugged one home, only to realize that each recipe calls for a mere ounce or two of freshly ground herbs. Either she had to buy a bunch and let most go to waste or try growing her own, which was akin to "watching plants die."

Carol's solution? Go back to using dried and enjoy her lovely new doorstop.

Finally, Lin (Halifax) says the dumbest thing she bought was "My ex-boyfriend's story about where he spent Friday night." Enough said.

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Robertson should play nice with rivals

InTransit

Derek Moscato

dmoscato@yahoo.com

Gregor Robertson is on quite a roll these days. The mayor-elect in the city of Vancouver, who takes office today, has parlayed a successful entrepreneurial background into high-profile political stints at the provincial and municipal levels.

Already, some of his biggest fans are touting the photogenic Robertson as a future leader for the provincial NDP.

But while Robertson's career is firing on all cylinders, he would be wise to back away from the partisan sniping and political points-scoring that was part of last month's municipal election campaign – no matter how tempting.

Rather, he needs to find a way to work with old adversaries from the B.C. Liberal government on critical issues like the 2010 Olympics, the homelessness crisis, and Vancouver's transit woes.

Already, Robertson has had productive discussions with B.C. Housing Minister Rich Coleman on the homelessness front.

But making progress on transit could be more challenging, since there is no love lost between Robertson and B.C. Transportation Minister Kevin Falcon.

Last month, Falcon jumped all over Robertson for his admission of getting busted on SkyTrain travelling two zones on a one-zone fare — lumping him in with "cheaters and freeloaders."

Mind you, Robertson, as an MLA for Vancouver-Fairview, hounded Falcon about the plight of Cambie Street merchants because of Canada Line construction.

Bottom line: Best-friends-forever these two are not. But they'll have to learn to play nice.

At stake is everything from enhanced transit security to moving forward with the much-needed SkyTrain line to UBC.

The good news is that Robertson and Falcon are both big proponents of improving public transit and cycling infrastructure. So once they sort out their political differences, they can make some much-needed headway on Vancouver's commuting crunch.

• My lament for boorish behaviour on public transit last week was echoed by readers like Luiza Levy, who rides the SkyTrain and bus in Metro Vancouver daily. But Levy, originally from Brazil, adds two bus-etiquette infractions that I failed to mention in my column.

One, she writes, "is people who carry enormous backpacks and do not take them off while standing" — which has the effect of blocking other bus riders.

And the other, she says, is when folks refuse to move to the back of the bus in crowded situations, which prevents more people from being able to board the vehicle. I couldn't agree with Levy more.

Derek Moscato is a writer with a focus on urban issues, transportation, architecture and economics.

Letters

Condemning Bloc support only hurts national unity

The Harper Conservatives are doing a great disservice to national unity in demonizing an eventual Liberal-NDP coalition just because it has Bloc Québécois support. During the 1995 sovereignty referendum, Canadians from coast to coast pledged: "My Canada includes Québec!" Is it now too much to ask that "My Canadian Parliament includes the province of Québec's legitimately elected representatives"?

Gilles Duceppe states his purpose as "defending the interests of Québec." Is it necessarily true that Québec's interests are contrary to those of the other provinces? If not, wouldn't-Bloc support for a coalition prove the impertinence of this party's supposed separatist inclinations? Indeed, nationalists should welcome this opportunity.

LUKE MAYBA, VANCOUVER

Opposition offers surprise present from the past

Just when Canadians thought they were through yet another federal election and had democratically elected the government of their choice, an irresponsible and power-mad opposition come up with a surprise Christmas present to oust the Conservatives.

This attempt to take power without a vote is shameful enough, but I find it even more distasteful that former prime minister Jean Chrétien and NDP leader Ed Broadbent would have such contempt for democracy as to be involved in this backroom deal.

GERALD HALL, NANOOSE BAY, B.C.

It's up to consumers to adapt to high oil prices

Some people may have been happy see oil prices fall, which means gasoline prices tumbled as well.

But expensive oil forces us to be more innovative in searching for alternatives, and it improves efficiency in the way we use our land, how we move around (smaller cars, better transit) and how we make things (firms invest in more energy efficient machinery).

There are many solutions, such as don't drive or if you need to drive because you live two hours from your job, then it's best to move near your work place. I don't see why oil companies need to accommodate our personal preferences.

KAMALIKA BARUA, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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Clean furnace filters can cut energy use
Clean — or replace — your furnace filter. A dirty filter forces your furnace to work harder to heat your home. According to the Ontario Conservation Bureau, a clean filter can cut your energy use by five per cent. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Going Green

Recycled steel saves

Canadians recycle steel at a rate of 65 per cent. Every tonne of recycled steel saves 1,131 kilograms of iron ore, 633 kilograms of coal and 54 kilograms of limestone, according to Greeniology: How To Live Well, Be Green and Make a Difference by Tanya Ha.

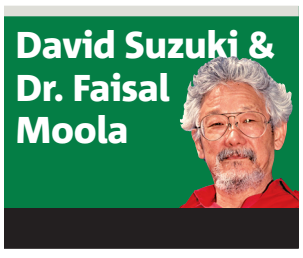
METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: MIKE DEREZYCKY, MIKE.DEREZYCKY@METRONEWS.CA

What would you do with $4 trillion?

Money handed out to failing companies could be put toward saving the planet

ScienceMatters



Many of you are working to recycle, reduce energy consumption, and improve the world for your families and neighbours. The collective impact of these many small efforts is making a big difference.

Just think what you could do with $4.1 trillion!

That's how much the U.S. and 17 Western European countries are spending to bail out financial institutions involved in an economic crisis that began in the U.S. and soon reverberated around the world. (The final amount will likely be a lot more. It's difficult to fathom such a large number, but consider that one trillion seconds is about 32,000 years!) To top it off, most of the details are secret; we don't really know what the money is being used for — although it probably hasn't stopped your retirement savings funds from plummeting.

The effect on people in developing nations is even worse. Most of them didn't have savings to begin with, and now the economic crisis, coupled with the effects of the climate crisis — including drought and food shortages — is causing more of our human family to suffer from extreme poverty and joblessness.

Just think what they could do with $4.1 trillion!

If we think we needn't worry about what happens to developing nations because it isn't affecting us, we should remind ourselves that, just as everything in nature is connected, so is everything in our global economic and political systems. Increased international job competition and reduced export opportunities are just two of the smaller impacts mentioned in the IPS report.

But the worst meltdown isn't of the global economy. Another report, Climate Safety, from the Public Interest Research Centre, shows the Arctic's late-summer ice is melting much faster than scientists previously predicted and may disappear within three to seven years. The cascading consequences of such an event could be catastrophic.

Just think what we could do with $4.1 trillion!

Instead of giving companies these huge sums of money so they can continue business as usual, buying and selling, merging, and paying their executives obscene salaries and bonuses, we could put it toward renewable energy, sustainable urban planning, and research into ways to lessen the impact of climate change — things that really would stimulate economies.

As citizens, we can and must do everything possible to keep our finite world alive and healthy. Along with the small but important changes we are making in our own lives, we must also call on our leaders to stop downplaying the unequivocal science that tells us failing to quickly address the climate crisis will make the economic crisis seem like a minor blip in history.

We could tell them where to put that $4.1 trillion!

Take David Suzuki's Nature Challenge and learn more at *www.davidsuzuki.org*.

Dr. David T. Suzuki is a Vancouver-based award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster.

Capitalists optimistic about carbon markets

U.S. venture capitalists say they see a bright spot amid the international economic gloom: A potential trillion-dollar market in carbon spurred by new regulations and a growing awareness of climate change.

The growth areas are less in traditional "green" businesses like solar panels and windmills and more in new infrastructure, such as a "smart" grid that would get alternative energy from where it's generated to where the customers are, said Martin Whittaker of Mission Point Capital Partners.

Despite the overall economic crisis, "Capital is still available for low carbon projects," Whittaker said by telephone. "There's still a lot of optimism and a lot of growth in and around the carbon market at all levels: The trading level, at the project level and at the company level."

He said his firm's fund was looking for returns on investment over a three- to five-year period if the United States puts a price on carbon emissions, which would be necessary if Washington launches a cap-and-trade plan, which would put a price on the right to pollute.

There are now two voluntary U.S. carbon markets: The Green Exchange and the Chicago Climate Exchange.

REUTERS

Smart grids

- So-called smart grids let customers instantly see the price of the power they are buying, which is expected to cut demand during daily peak load hours and reduce demand from centralized, traditional fossil-fuel power plants.

News in brief

GASES An ancient technique of plowing charred plants into the ground to revive soil may also trap greenhouse gases for thousands of years and forestall global warming, scientists said late last week. Heating plants such as farm waste or wood in airtight conditions produces a high-carbon substance called biochar, which can store the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and enhance nutrients in the soil. REUTERS

TOBIAS SCHWARZ/REUTERS

A protester dressed as a clown gestures on the weekend during a demonstration where UN climate talks are being held in Poznan, Poland. Approximately 1,000 people took to the streets in Poznan to call for quicker action from the UN over the effects of global warming.

Protesters demand swifter action

Thousands of climate protesters, some dressed as polar bears, devils or penguins, demanded swifter action on Saturday from the United Nations to combat global warming.

Outside UN-led talks in Poland aimed at pushing 187 countries toward stiffer targets to fight global warming, some 1,000 demonstrators said governments were risking the planet's future by delaying action to squabble over who was to blame.

Several thousand more protesters took part in a march through London to demand "urgent and radical action" from the British government on climate change.

"So far I think it's going really slowly," Susann Scherbarth from Friends of the Earth in Germany said of the talks in the western city of Poznan.

She and other protesters in Poznan waved a banner reading: "Stop clowning around, get serious about climate action."

Others carried pictures of seas inundating cities and villages, and the suited hand of a businessman squeezing the planet.

REUTERS

Day of action

- Marches, bicycle rides and other events were scheduled around the world Saturday to mark a Global Day of Action on Climate, said the Global Climate Campaign, an umbrella group for participants.

UN atlas pinpoints hot spots

PROTECTION A UN atlas pinpointed late last week parts of forests from the Amazon to Madagascar where better protection could give the twin benefits of slowing global warming and preserving rare wildlife.

The atlas, issued at UN climate talks in Poznan, Poland, this month, identified hot spots with a high diversity of animals and plants in forests that were also big stores of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, in trees and soils.

"It shows overlaps between carbon stored and areas of biodiversity importance," Barney Dickson, of the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the UN Environment Program, told Reuters.

"This offers the prospect of a double dividend," he said of the atlas, meant to guide governments in deciding where to protect forests by slowing logging and clearing of forests.

If a government wanted to aid gorillas and other great apes, forests in part of the eastern Congo basin could be set aside. Rare birds and amphibians could be helped by protecting carbon-rich forests in Ecuador. REUTERS

First Georgia the 23rd U.S. bank to fold

First Georgia Community Bank, a small institution with $237.5 million US in assets, was closed by state regulators on Friday, marking the 23rd U.S. bank failure this year. Its deposits were transferred to United Bank of Zebulon, Ga. **REUTERS**

Business

Waking up to good news

As one gloomy economic report after another spreads fear among consumers, one thing they can look forward to is a cheaper cup of coffee. Owner of Folgers coffee, J.M. Smucker Co., announced it cut list prices anywhere from 3.5 to 7.8 per cent on four Folgers products effective immediately because of a decline in the cost of green coffee beans. REUTERS

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

In brief

TRADE Big gaps remain in the positions of trade powers and the latest negotiating texts from the World Trade Organization issued Saturday show that a new deal to open up global commerce is far from certain. Chairmen of the core agricultural and industrial goods talks said much work remains on some issues, including the one that ultimately wrecked the July talks — a safeguard for poor farmers — and proposals to eliminate duties for some industrial sectors remain dealbreakers. **REUTERS**

AUTOS The Canadian subsidiaries of the Big Three automakers want about $6 billion in loans and credit lines from the federal and Ontario governments to stay alive. General Motors is seeking $800 million by year's end and $1.6 billion later, while Chrysler is seeking $1.6 billion.
Ford said it would need a "standby" line of credit of $2 billion, but would only use it if necessary. But, they won't go into much detail on how they would spend the money. The three automakers submitted restructuring plans and the requests for rescue packages on Thursday. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Obama vows stronger financial regulations

President-elect Barack Obama said yesterday he would put strong new financial regulation at the centre of his economic recovery program to force more accountability on the banking industry.

Obama again warned that the U.S. economic crisis, which saw the country lose more than half a million jobs in November alone, would worsen before it gets better.

"As part of our economic recovery package what you will see coming out of my administration, right at the centre, is a strong set of financial regulations," Obama said in a taped appearance on NBC's Meet the Press.

"Banks, ratings agencies, mortgage brokers, a whole bunch of folks (will) start having to be much more accountable and behave much more responsibly.

"We've got to have transparency, openness, fair dealing in our financial markets and that's an area where I think over the last eight years we've fallen short."

REUTERS/SCOTT OLSON

President-elect Obama speaks to host Tom Brokaw during a taping of NBC's Meet the Press in Chicago on Saturday.

Obama, who takes office on Jan. 20, began outlining his economic recovery plan Saturday, saying he aims to create at least 2.5 million new jobs by 2011 and launch the largest U.S. infrastructure investment since the 1950s.

Yesterday he did not put a price tag on the plan, which analysts say could cost at least $500 billion US. But he acknowledged the costs would be "substantial" and would hike the budget deficit at least in the short term.

"We've got to provide a blood infusion to the patient right now to make sure the patient is stabilized," Obama said. "We can't worry short term about the deficit ... We've got to make sure the economic stimulus plan is large enough to get the economy moving." **REUTERS**

Credit fears in the cards for Royal Bank

EARNINGS Royal Bank of Canada is bracing for deteriorating credit quality in fiscal 2009, predicting the economic malaise will trigger steeper job losses and more soured loans.

The bank said Friday it is preparing to absorb more credit losses, after posting double-digit declines in both its fourth-quarter and full-year profits.

Credit quality, already a worry for its U.S. bank, is being carefully monitored because 77 per cent of its loans are in Canada.

During the quarter, provisions for credit losses jumped to $619 million from $263 million in the same time last year. While the U.S. was a trouble spot, Canadian banking also saw bigger provisions, primarily reflecting portfolio growth and higher loss rates in credit cards. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

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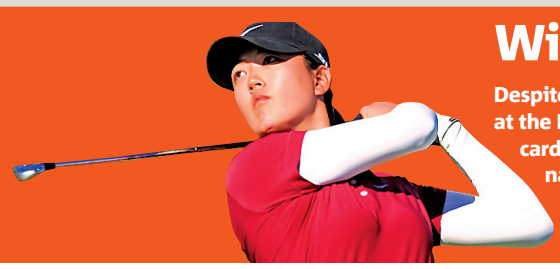
Toronto to host UConn and Buffalo in bowl game
The University of Connecticut is set to take on the University of Buffalo in the third-annual International Bowl in Toronto Jan. 3. The Buffalo Bulls won the Mid-American Conference title by shocking previously unbeaten Ball State in the championship game Thursday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Wie makes the grade

Despite a rough start to the round Michelle Wie, left, finished in seventh place at the LPGA's qualifying school yesterday, good enough to earn her a full-time card on the tour. The 19-year-old Wie has played in many LPGA and PGA tournaments in the past, but mostly on sponsor exemptions. Wie finished the five-round event 12-under par, six shots back of first-place finisher Stacy Lewis. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

MIKE CASSESE/REUTERS

Portland Trail Blazers forward Greg Oden, right, puts up a shot over Toronto Raptors forward Jermaine O'Neal during yesterday's game. The Trail Blazers beat the Raptors 98-97.

Blazers edge Raps in Triano's home debut

NBA RESULTS

Portland 98 | **Toronto** 97

VS

NBA Steve Blake scored 19 points, including the game-winning three-pointer with 8.9 seconds remaining as the Portland Trail Blazers edged the Toronto Raptors, 98-97, at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto yesterday.

"I get a lot of three's off of rebounds, the defence collapsing and the ball is tapped out and I am wide open," Blake said. "That last play I got the ball and I wanted to be aggressive. They were playing good defence, so I just wanted to create something off of their defence."

LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 points and eight boards, and Brandon Roy had 15 points with seven assists for Portland.

Jermaine O'Neal scored a season-high 24 points and grabbed eight rebounds, while Chris Bosh had 19 points and Jose Calderon 15 points and 13 assists for the Raptors, who have dropped four straight and two in a row under interim head coach Jay Triano.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Avs take down Canucks

Vancouver blows three leads before losing in shootout

NHL RESULTS

Colorado 5 **Vancouver** 4 (SO)

VS

SCOTT RINTOUL
scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

REUTERS/MARK LEFFINGWELL

Colorado Avalanche forward Marek Svatos, right, scores the first shootout goal against Vancouver Canucks goalie Cory Schneider during the shootout of last night's game in Denver.

THE SKINNY: Noted Canuck killer Milan Hedjuk scored once in regulation and provided the clinching goal in the shootout as the Avalanche rallied for a 5-4 victory in Denver last night. Hedjuk also added two assists in helping the Avs rebound from 3-2 and 4-3 deficits in the third period.

THE SILVER LINING: The Canucks appear to be getting their special teams turned around. After last night's perfect penalty kill and Steve Bernier's powerplay goal, Vancouver has outscored its opposition by a count of 5-2 on the man advantage in the month of December.

THE GOAL SCORERS: Bernier's two goals led the way for Vancouver's offense, while Daniel Sedin and Darcy Hordichuk also tallied in the loss.

THE REMEDY: Colorado's four goals marked just the second time since October 23rd that the Avalanche have scored more than three goals in a game. The Avs entered the contest with the worst offense in the Western Conference.

THE RATING: If you like offense (and who doesn't), you probably enjoyed this game. Though Canucks' fans cursed the result, it was entertaining to watch.

out of five pucks

THE NEXT GAME: The Canucks continue their seven-game road trip tomorrow in Nashville, where the puck will drop at 5pm Pacific time.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Colorado 5 **VANCOUVER** 4 (SO)
Calgary 3 N.Y. Rangers 0
Carolina 3 Washington 1
Chicago 7 Phoenix 1
Anaheim 5 Columbus 3

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Tampa Bay at Boston
N.Y. Islanders at Toronto
Florida at Ottawa
Buffalo at Pittsburgh
Nashville at St. Louis

NBA

LAST NIGHT'S RESULTS
Portland 98 Toronto 97
New York 104 Detroit 92
Boston 122 Indiana 117 (OT)
L.A. Lakers 105 Milwaukee 92

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Charlotte at Miami
Houston at Memphis
Golden State at Oklahoma City
Orlando at L.A. Clippers

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Arizona 34 St. Louis 10
Chicago 23 Jacksonville 10
Denver 24 Kansas City 17
Houston 24 Green Bay 21
Indianapolis 35 Cincinnati 3
Minnesota 20 Detroit 16
New England 24 Seattle 21
New Orleans 29 Atlanta 25
Philadelphia 20 N.Y. Giants 14
Pittsburgh 20 Dallas 13
San Francisco 24 N.Y. Jets 14
Tennessee 28 Cleveland 9
Miami 16 Buffalo 3 **(at Toronto)**
Baltimore 24 Washington 10

TONIGHT'S GAME
Tampa Bay at Carolina

Sports in brief

SPEED SKATING Kristina Groves and Shannon Rempel found the podium again at the World Cup event in Changchun, China, TSN.ca is reporting. Groves took silver and Rempel captured bronze in the women's 1,000m yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Giants down Bruins 3-2

Lance Bouma scored with 3:49 left in the third period to lift the Vancouver Giants to a 3-2 win over the Chilliwack Bruins last night. James Henry and Casey Pierro-Zabotel also scored for the Giants, while Tyson Sexsmith stoped 18 shots for the win. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dolphins down Bills

Miami dominates in the first NFL game in Canada

NFL ROUNDUP

Dolphins 16 Bills 3

RICK STEWART/GETTY IMAGES

Anthony Fasano of the Miami Dolphins, centre, is stopped by Paul Posluzny during yesterday's game at the Rogers Centre in Toronto. The Dolphins won 16-3.

Chad Pennington threw for 181 yards and one touchdown on an efficient 23-of-29 passing, as Miami topped Buffalo 16-3 at the Rogers Centre in Toronto yesterday, in the first NFL game played in Canada.

Ronnie Brown ran for 70 yards on 16 carries for the Dolphins (8-5), who pulled into a three-way tie for first place in the AFC East with the win.

Eagles 20, Giants 14 — Brian Westbrook rushed 33 times for 131 yards and a touchdown while adding six receptions for 72 yards and a score, as the Philadelphia Eagles scored a surprise 20-14 victory over the New York Giants in East Rutherford, N.J.

Donovan McNabb threw for 191 yards and a touchdown on 19-of-30 passes for the Eagles (7-5-1), who have won two in a row and kept their hopes alive for a postseason berth with a huge road division victory.

49ers 24, Jets 14 —Shaun Hill threw for 285 yards with a pair of touchdowns as the San Francisco 49ers surprised the New York Jets, 24-14 in San Francisco.

Hill connected on 28-of-39 passes and was picked off once, and Frank Gore rushed for 52 yards on 14 carries and also caught a four-yard touchdown pass before leaving the game early in the third quarter with an ankle injury.

Steelers 20, Cowboys 13 — DeShea Townsend's 25-yard interception return with 1:40 left gave Pittsburgh two touchdowns in 19 seconds, after going nearly 58 minutes without finding the end zone, and the Steelers earned a 20-13 victory in a heavyweight defensive bout with the Dallas Cowboys from Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Patriots 24, Seahawks 21 — Sammy Morris scored the game-winning touchdown late in the fourth quarter as the New England Patriots fought back to down the Seahawks 24-21 in Seattle.

Elsewhere in the NFL, it was: San Diego 34, Oakland 7; Chicago 23, Jacksonville 10; Minnesota 20, Detroit 16; Houston 24, Green Bay 21; Indianapolis 25 Cincinnati 3; New Orleans 29 Atlanta 25; Tennessee 28, cleveland 9; Denver 24, Kansas City 21; Arizona 34, St. Louis 10.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Oklahoma, Florida in title game

FOOTBALL Florida will play Oklahoma in the Bowl Championship Series national title game on Jan. 8 in Miami, leaving Texas out of the championship picture despite the Longhorns dealing the Sooners their only loss of the season.

The BCS has been controversial since it started and this year is no different. Texas was left out of the Big 12 title game as it lost a three-way tiebreaker between Oklahoma and Texas Tech.

Ohio State (10-2) and Texas (11-1) will play in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 5 in Glendale, Ariz.

In other BCS games, Penn State (11-1) will take on Southern California (11-1) in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day; Cincinnati (11-2) will battle Virginia Tech (9-4) in the Orange Bowl on New Year's night; and Utah (12-0) tangles with Alabama (12-1) in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 2. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports in brief

NHL The Carolina Hurricanes placed goaltender Cam Ward on injured reserve yesterday with a groin problem. The 2006 Conn Smythe Trophy winner, Ward is 8-7-2 with a 2.68 goals-against average and .911 save percentage in 18 games this season.

BOXING Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines stunned 10-time world champion Oscar De La Hoya with an eighth-round TKO in their non-title fight in Las Vegas Saturday. Moving up two weight classes for his first fight at welterweight, WBC lightweight champion Pacquiao dominated De La Hoya from the opening bell.

NFL The Cleveland Browns are formulating a plan that ultimately could lead to the return of Marty Schottenheimer as their coach for the 2009 season, according to sources, ESPN.com is reporting.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canucks a good spot for Sundin

ToulBox

Scott Rintoul

scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

The Mats Sundin saga has been drawn out so long that Star Wars fans are wondering when it will end.

The latest timeline goes like this: Sundin will have narrowed his list to three or four teams by next Monday, and will have a decision made by Christmas. Canucks fans couldn't care less unless Sundin is sitting under a tree at GM Place when Mike Gillis goes to open his presents in just over two weeks' time.

As improbable as that has seemed for most of this process, there are still a couple of reasons to believe the big Swede could end up on the west coast of Canada.

As has been stated ad nauseum, Sundin's hefty price tag is manageable in Vancouver's salary structure but not in many others around the NHL. What may end up being as large a factor is Sundin's apparent desire to not only play for a winner, but to be a major contributor.

Though the Canucks have scored more than most imagined before the season, even a novice can project what a difference Sundin would make to the offense in Vancouver. From the amount of burden he would remove from the shoulders of the Sedins to the immediate upgrade he would provide on the powerplay, Sundin vaults the Canucks from a contender for their division to a contender in the Western Conference.

While Sundin has repeatedly asserted that his decision is not about the money, the Canucks appear well positioned on both fronts. They can pay him more than any other club in contention and they would also benefit most from his addition.

• Cory Schneider obviously has the chops to be a starting goaltender in the NHL — now he must learn the subtleties of the position. One of those is the ability to make the game-saving stop, a characteristic Roberto Luongo has nearly perfected. No matter how many goals Luongo has let in, he always seems to stop the shot that either preserves a win or keeps the Canucks in line for a point.

Though Schneider has been excellent for the most part, he's failed to make that very stop in the third periods of three of his four starts.

• Kyle Wellwood is quickly becoming the most impressive free agent signing in Vancouver since Anson Carter.

Wellwood has not only scored the second most goals on the club with 11 this season, he has been remarkably consistent. He has not gone more than three games without a point, no more than four without a goal, and each of those have only occurred once. He is on pace to score 35-40 goals this season, and he's been the most dangerous shootout man on the roster, as evidenced by last night's goal.

At just under $1 million, that is money well spent by Gillis, a figure that will become even more of a bargain should Wellwood help lure his old pal Sundin to Vancouver.

Scott Rintoul is a college athlete, sports fan and broadcaster. He can be heard Monday-Friday on the TEAM 1040 from 6-9 a.m.

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York law students return to class
Osgoode Hall Law School students at York University returned to class last week despite the ongoing strike by teaching assistants and contract faculty. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Intellectual daycare

University of Western Ontario professor emeritus Ian Hunter writes in a column recently appearing in the National Post that he thinks Canadian universities have become a form of daycare where students will never be upset or intellectually challenged. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Vancouver Film School student Lynn Baglole applies makeup to one of the volunteers of a mock disaster last month.

Making the dead and hurt really come alive

ETHAN ROTBERG
for Metro Canada

Vancouver Film School students got a unique opportunity to hone their skills by creating makeup effects for a disaster simulation.

Students in the Makeup Design for Film and Television program created the effects on more than a hundred volunteers for the emergency exercise at the West Coast Express train station on Nov. 23. The exercise was aimed at improving transit security as well as giving emergency response practice to fire, police and ambulance services.

The newly revamped one-year program, now in its second year, teaches the skills needed to work as a makeup artist for TV and film. Students learn techniques from wig working, sculpting and mask making to digital media.

Program manager Laura Togyi said that the program is successful because it emphasises portfolio development and the development of skills.

"Often (graduates) are hired straight into effect shops," she said.

A consultant for the disaster exercise team first contacted Togyi back in July looking for recent graduates to work on the simulation. She suggested that it would be perfect for the students as a project.

It was the first time the students were able to take part in such a large project. All 28 makeup artists worked together to create appearances for the victims. Some of the volunteers were made to look already dead, while others were to have suffered injuries like burns or lacerations.

The team had 18 days to prepare for the exercise and only about an hour and a half to complete the makeup on the volunteers. Visit vfs.com/makeup for more.

Providing a better life, one chimp at a time

OddJobs

After running a successful grooming business outside Montreal for 19 years, Gloria Grow, upon approaching 40 decided she wanted to do more for animals than make them look good.

She and her veterinarian husband already owned a farm and had begun rescuing rabbits, horses and sheep. She got increasingly involved in animal rights, and heard a speech from Dr. Jane Goodall at a conference; she said there were HIV-positive chimpanzees living in labs across North America who needed homes.

Grow then volunteered to work with chimps at the University of Washington. "I knew then that this was what I wanted to do."

She discovered a lab in New York State that was closing. Using her retirement savings, she built a 10,000 square foot facility on her farm in early 2007. That fall, 15 chimps arrived; some of them had HIV.

The illness wasn't a problem. Chimps can naturally fight the disease, and she just had to take extra care when near their blood or waste. More difficult to handle was the chimps' post-traumatic stress from life in the lab. "When I met them in the lab they were trying their best to be nice. But when I got them here, all hell broke lose," she recalls.

Chimps, which weight around 200 pounds each, are very strong and can become violent, even if they know and like you. Caregivers have been known to lose hands.

In the early days, Grow worked mostly by herself, with the help of family members, and almost never left the farm. Eventually, thanks to media coverage and several documentaries, people started donating to the nonprofit she had created, the Fauna Foundation, and she hired help.

More than ten years later, Grow, now 53, has a staff of ten and spends just three days a week in the chimp house.

Chimpanzees, like the one above, have been rescued from zoos and laboratories by Gloria Grow.

Grow has become very emotionally connected to her charges, six of which she's seen pass away. She says some of her older residents like Tom and Sue Ellen feel like old, dear friends, while the newer chimps — she's more recently rescued two from zoos, and now has a total of 13 — feel almost like her own children.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

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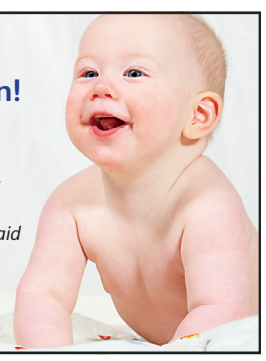

Gossip Girl spinoff in the works
Dawn Ostroff, president of CW entertainment, admits the network is in discussions with Gossip Girl producers about commissioning a spinoff of the hit show. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

Entertainment

Actor's appeal
Wesley Snipes is appealing his three-year prison sentence for tax evasion, arguing his work to thwart terrorists (teaching airline flight crews martial arts) makes him a national hero. IMDB.COM

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●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Marching to his own beat

Oscar-winner Adrien Brody picks passionate over prestigious projects

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

Everybody remembers Adrien Brody as the relatively unknown actor who took the Oscar at only 29, the youngest male ever, for his performance in Roman Polanski's The Pianist. Or, rather, everyone knows Brody for his bravado in planting a Don Juan-style kiss on presenter Halle Berry when winning said Oscar. The 35-year-old, it seems, is full of surprises.

He isn't just the intense star of King Kong, The Darjeeling Limited and Cadillac Records, opening this week. He's also a music lover who produces beats.

"I make hip-hop tracks, but not solely," says Brody, who in 2002 was delivering one of his homemade CDs to P. Diddy when profiled by the New York Times.

These days the actor is too busy to spend hours composing in front of a keyboard. Instead, he found a project to fuse his two passions — in his latest role, the Woodhaven, Queens, native plays Leonard Chess, co-founder of the legendary Chicago blues label Chess Records.

Oscar-winning actor Adrien Brody stars in the new film Cadillac Records.

"John Lee Hooker, B.B. King…" the lanky, six-foot-one star calls out, scrolling though his BlackBerry for blues artists he listened to even before portraying the man who launched the careers of some of the most influential musicians of our time — blues pioneer Muddy Waters (Jeffrey Wright), rock 'n' roll godfather Chuck Berry (Mos Def) and soul songstress Etta James (Beyoncé Knowles), to name a few.

"I met Etta James (for the first time) at the premiere last week," says Brody. In a sassy tone he reenacts their meeting: "Leonard and I did not do those things."

James was clarifying the fictionalized scene written by writer/director Darnell Martin which portrays the music icon and Chess as possible lovers. It's raised a few eyebrows among purists, as well as ruffled the singer.

Just what do you say to someone who calls you out? Especially when that someone is a legend?

"I said, 'Oh, really?' and I laughed," says Brody. "She said I had more style than Leonard." Then falling back into his James impersonation: '"He would have liked your hair, too.'" These days, the actor wears his locks — both on his head and face — long, in a surfer-meets-lumberjack way. It's the carefree look of someone who doesn't have a boss or is worried about getting one.

And why not? Achieving the highest recognition in your field early on must diffuse at least some of the 'Will-I-succeed' anxiety. Still, Brody insists that post-Oscar he's not just cruising.

"If you want to continue to work and find inspirational material, that challenge is always present. What I do is I allow myself to jump into projects that inspire me regardless of what people tell me is the right career decision," assures Brody, who just wrapped a mystery (Giallo) and a stoner comedy (High School). "I try to be truthful with myself. What is a journey that I want to go down?"

Box office

Ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to studio estimates:

1. **Four Christmases:** $18.2 million US
2. **Twilight:** $13.2 million
3. **Bolt:** $9.7 million
4. **Australia:** $7 million
5. **Quantum of Solace:** $6.6 million
6. **Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa:** $5.1 million
7. **Transporter 3:** $4.5 million
8. **Punisher: War Zone:** $4 million
9. **Cadillac Records:** $3.5 million
10. **Role Models:** $2.6 million

REUTERS

Comic book adaptation is punishment

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Punisher: **War Zone**

Director: Lexi Alexander
Stars: Ray Stevenson, Dominic West
Class: 18A
Rating: ●

REVIEW Punisher: War Zone is the third attempt to bring the violent vigilante comic book character to the big screen, and by this latest example, the third time is not always the charm.

For those unschooled in the ways of the Punisher, he is Frank Castle (Ray Stevenson of HBO's Rome), an ex-marine set on ridding the world of corruption after the murder of his wife and child.

In War Zone, we catch up to the Punisher taking on Billy Russoti (Dominic West of 300), a devilish crime boss who was grossly disfigured at the hands of Castle. Set on retribution, Russoti renames himself Jigsaw — his face looks like a moth-eaten quilt after all — and assembles an army of (inept) assailants to avenge the Punisher.

Punisher: War Zone brings the comic book to the big screen again.

Basically, this movie aims to please the sort of movie fans who rate the excessiveness of a bad guy being impaled with a chair leg slightly higher than engaging screenplays or restrained performances.

So, with that in mind, I prefer to highlight who this film might be for: If you like action that borders on campy but isn't convincing enough to seem intentionally so, this movie's for you.

If you like a villain attempting to emulate the intensity of Heath Ledger's The Joker, but instead achieving a level of depth expected more from the likes of Steven Seagal, this movie's for you.

If you want to see a fat dude on a toilet get his head blown apart by a hollow-point gunshot, this movie's for you. Simply put, if you want to punish yourself at the theatre, then this movie's for you.

Screentimes

- Tinseltown, Mon-Thu 1:20-4:15-7-9:35
- Esplanade 6, Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50
- SilverCity Riverport, Mon-Thu 1:45-4:50-7:55-10:35
- SilverCity Metropolis, Mon-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:45-10:25
- SilverCity Coquitlam, Mon-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:40
- Strawberry Hill Grande, Mon-Thu 1:40-4:15-7:20-10:05
- Studio 12 Guildford, Mon-Thu 1:45-4:15-7:15-9:45

Boy George could go to jail

PEOPLE Singer Boy George could be jailed next month after being found guilty on Friday for falsely imprisoning a Norwegian male escort by handcuffing him to a wall.

Judge David Radford said a prison term was "the more likely option" when he sentences the 47-year-old former Culture Club frontman on Jan. 16.

Tried under his real name George O'Dowd, he had denied falsely imprisoning Audun Carlsen, 29, at his flat in April last year.

Guitarist Satriani sues Coldplay

MUSIC Rock guitarist Joe Satriani has sued rock band Coldplay, accusing the Grammy-nominated stars of plagiarizing one of his songs.

Satriani's copyright infringement suit, filed in Los Angeles federal court, claims the Coldplay song Viva La Vida incorporates "substantial original portions" of his 2004 song If I Could Fly.

The 52-year-old is seeking a jury trial, damages and "any and all profits" attributable to the alleged copyright infringement. REUTERS

Ledger posthumously honoured
Australian actor Heath Ledger, who died in January, has been posthumously named best actor for his role as the Joker in The Dark Knight by the Australian Film Institute. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Warlords reign at Golden Horse

AWARDS The Hong Kong historical drama The Warlords was the big winner on Saturday at the Golden Horse awards, considered the Chinese-language equivalent of the Oscars.

Starring martial arts master Jet Li, The Warlords took the awards for best film and best director, beating out low-budget favourite Cape No. 7 in an awards ceremony held in the central Taiwan city of Taichung.

The Warlords had 12 nominations, the most of any film, and although it won only three awards, these included the night's two top honours, plus best visual effects.

The movie tells the story of a 19th-century general set to become governor during the waning years of the Qing dynasty.

Mafia drama rules film awards

HONOUR The Italian mafia drama Gomorra dominated the European Film Awards on Saturday, winning five prizes, including best film, best director and best actor.

Based on a book by Roberto Saviano, who has lived under police protection for two years because of death threats from gangsters, the hard-hitting film depicts organized crime in Naples. It also won the Grand Prix at Cannes this year.

Honorary awards were presented to British actress Judi Dench and the founders of the Dogma film movement, Soren Kragh-Jacobsen, Kristian Levring, Lars von Trier and Thomas Vinterberg of Denmark. The European Film Academy was founded in 1989 to promote European films, with Swedish director Ingmar Bergman as its first president. **REUTERS**

In brief

MOVIES Trent Reznor has scrapped plans for a 3-D film chronicling Nine Inch Nails' most recent tour, according to a post on the band's website. The film would have been released in theatres as well as on DVD and Blu-ray.

DEAL Shrek producer John H. Williams and his Vanguard Films have picked up the rights to the satirical cult comic book series Emo Boy. The comic follows the travails of the most self-dramatizing young man in the history of the world, whose emotions and feelings are so intense he even has "emo powers." **REUTERS**

Raising a glass to Harvey Milk

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

Movie **feature**

Beyond being an impressive piece of storytelling, Gus Van Sant's Milk is an important film because it dramatizes the life of the one of the most underappreciated political figures of the 1970s.

Harvey Milk was the first openly gay man elected to political office in America, breaking what seemed like an insurmountable barrier.

"Harvey's contribution to the gay movement was enormous," said Vancouver's Tim Stevenson, who holds the dual honour of being Canada's first openly gay provincial cabinet minister and an ordained minister.

"He was way ahead of his time," said the former B.C. minister of employment and investment. "He led the way for many other politicians who I think at that time didn't consider it a possibility to be openly gay and elected."

Stevenson has been involved with the gay liberation movement for more than 30 years and is quick to acknowledge that Milk was one of his "main influences."

"When I started in the '70s it didn't look even remotely possible that I could be ordained in a church, let alone become a politician, let alone become a cabinet minister. We didn't even think of that. We're at a place now where you can basically achieve what you want to achieve."

But like many political figures in the gay community, Stevenson is worried that younger generations don't appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of trailblazers like Milk, who helped create the current political climate of tolerance.

"He really is a martyr for the liberation movement. That's why I'm particularly pleased to see a movie like this coming out because it will help people remember. I think it's essential that gay, lesbian and transgender people know our history and understand how we got to where we are.

"It didn't happen without a lot of pain, a lot of suffering and death. We forget our own history to our peril."

Stevenson isn't the only person who feels this way. In fact, it was the primary motivation of many of the people involved in making Milk — like screenwriter Dustin Lance Black.

"The movie will be helpful for the gay community as an education piece," Black said, "I think it will also be really helpful for the gay leadership to see how it's done."

Milk is currently playing in movie theatres around Vancouver.

Sean Penn stars as Harvey Milk in Gus Van Sant's biopic about the assassinated politician.

Go to metronews.ca/movies for more information about Milk, including trailers and showtimes.

Weezer frontman Cuomo stays eclectic on second solo album

MUSIC A Jermaine Dupri song about partying excessively seems a far cry from a Brian Wilson song about sweetly loving a girl.

The tie that binds these polar opposites of pop music is Rivers Cuomo. The eclectic frontman for modern-rock mainstay Weezer has just released a second album of rare and unreleased solo tracks.

Rivers Cuomo

Alone II (DGC/Interscope) sold a modest 6,000 copies during its first week in U.S. stores, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The first volume, released almost exactly a year ago, started with 14,000 and has gone on to sell 43,000.

"I knew I had a lot more recordings that I wanted to share with the world, but I wanted to wait and see how Alone I was received," Cuomo says.

Satisfied with the results, he delved back into the vaults.

"I love the process of listening to all the old recordings and picking my favourites and going through my old journals and seeing what I was thinking when I was writing these songs."

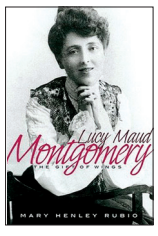
About that Dupri song: The producer/mogul sent Cuomo a demo of Can't Stop Partying, but the lyrics didn't initially jive with Cuomo's style. He tried to write his own, but "every line I came up with just sounded stupid compared with his, so I went back and changed the music and gave it some very sad chords filled with longing."

The cover of Wilson's Don't Worry Baby follows years of study of the Beach Boy's output by Cuomo, which he says has guided his own songwriting.

Cuomo said he "carefully transcribed" the song's five-part harmonies "in my bedroom on my tape player. But then I added the element of the modern crunchy-guitar sound. And that's what really helped me figure out what I wanted to do as a songwriter and a performer in Weezer."

Weezer will be back on the road next spring, possibly with Oasis, in support of its 2008 self-titled release, dubbed the Red Album. The group is also putting together its own collection of unreleased material, titled Odds and Ends. **REUTERS**

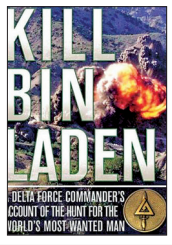
Placing Ledger in the spotlight



Lucy Maud Montgomery: **The Gift of Wings**

Author: Mary Henley Rubio
Publisher: Doubleday Canada
Price: $39.95 (Hardcover)

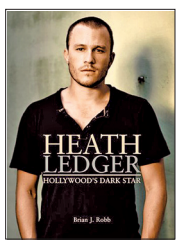
In Mary Henley Rubio's latest work detailing the life of Canadian author Lucy Maud Montgomery, she transcends the Green Gables to get at the force behind the woman who made "Anne with an E" a Canadian household name. With over 20 years of Montgomery research behind her, Rubio combines findings from the author's journals and previously unpublished interviews with individuals now deceased, who were close to Montgomery in life, to construct an exhaustive biography. From a less than perfect girlhood through challenges posed to Montgomery in work, society and marriage, Rubio leaves little to the imagination in her story of the national literary icon.



Kill **Bin Laden**

Author: Dalton Fury
Publisher: St. Martin's Press
Price: $28.95 (Hardcover)

Have you ever wondered why the United States struggled so much in tracking down the world's most wanted man? After 9-11, George W. Bush's pledge to find and kill Osama bin Laden prompted the secretive Delta Force — about 40 of the country's finest intelligence and military powers — to take up the cause, but to no avail. With bin Laden still on the loose, former Delta Force commander Dalton Fury recalls the critical Battle of Tora Bora to explain why the Force failed to kill the country's greatest terrorist enemy. Using extensive military jargon, Fury fleshes out one of the most significant missions impossible in the nation's history.



Heath Ledger: **Hollywood's Dark Star**

Author: Brian J. Robb
Publisher: Plexus
Price: $25.95 (Paperback)

From playing a gay cyclist on the Australian high school television drama Sweat to unhinged Batman villain the Joker in the blockbuster The Dark Knight, Heath Ledger: Hollywood's Dark Star documents the actor's short life before his unanticipated death in January. The book unfolds as part biography and part photographic retrospective, chronicling Ledger's career and personal life since his acting debut. It observes how Ledger successfully escaped the teen-movie heartthrob association he launched in 10 Things I Hate About You to become an A-list Academy Award nominee for his gay cowboy role in Brokeback Mountain.

BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

BookPicks

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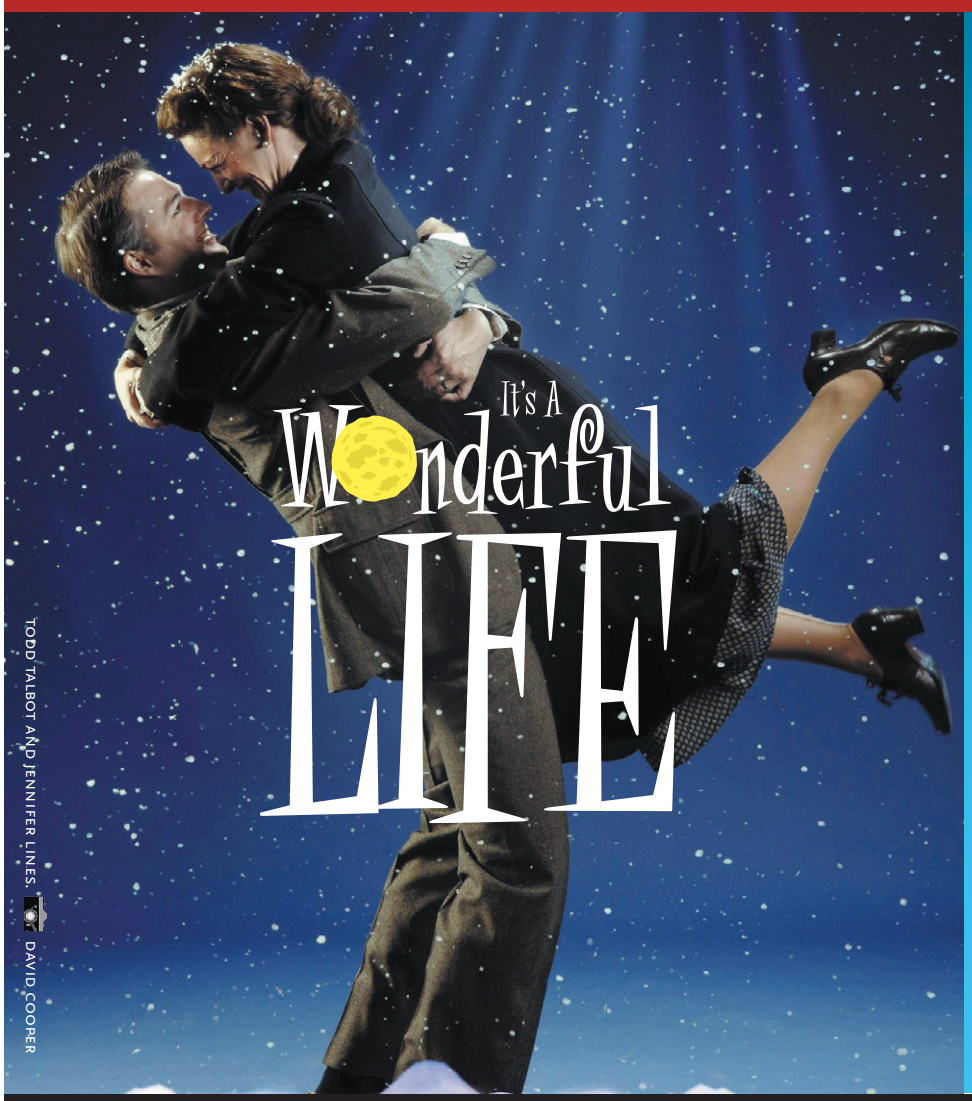

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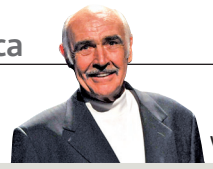

Bond script sells
A script co-written by actor Sir Sean Connery for a James Bond film that was never made has sold at auction in London for $68,400 US. IMDB.COM

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Standing in Young's shadow

L.A. folk-rock band Everest emulate their musical hero

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Russell Pollard may have reached the summit of his musical endeavours.

It's one reason why the former member of Sebadoh and Folk Implosion named his latest project Everest, a L.A.-based folk-rock hybrid he put together with bassist Rob Douglas, guitarist Joel Graves and drummer Davey Latter — all close friends with musical resumés as long as your arm (Earlimart, Alaska! and The Watson Twins among them).

It's a friendship that produced Ghost Notes, Everest's debut that delves into bright pop in its first half and melancholy prog-rock in the second. Produced by Mike Terry (Foo Fighters), Ghost Notes has an early 1970s feel, recorded on analog tape in the late Elliot Smith's New Monkey studio — a work that Pollard says was a refreshing reboot for all concerned.

"We're all close friends and we got really frustrated with what we were doing," said the drummer turned singer-songwriter.

"We didn't want something similar to what we had done in the past. We wanted something with no rules and no pretension, and it just evolved from there."

The band made a long climb in a short time: In November of 2007 Elliot Roberts, Neil Young's manager, warmed to Everest demos and invited the band to record under Young's Vapor Records label. Early this year, Everest played at the Sundance Film Festival, where Young was promoting Déjà Vu, a documentary about Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young.

Impressed with what he heard at the fest, Young invited Everest on several European dates and the North American leg of his current tour with Wilco and Death Cab For Cutie.

"He's our shaman," Pollard says of Young. "He does what he wants to do; he doesn't compromise and he doesn't let what he does get messed with for the sake of money. We view that as the dream. It's a very organic thing."

Pollard plans on climbing more musical mountains in the future — already testing the crowds with new songs to appear on a potential second album that the band will record at the end of its tour. He says continuing while the group has this kind of creative independence isn't so much of a want as it is a need.

"I didn't think it would be possible to have as much fun as we are now," he said. "We can't stop. We'll just get depressed, and I plan on taking this thing as far as I want to go."

PHOTO SUBMITTED

Everest looks up to singer-songwriter Neil Young.

"He's our shaman. He does what he wants to do; he doesn't let what he does get messed with for the sake of money. We view that as the dream.
Russell Pollard on Neil Young

Small is in style when it comes to holiday parties

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada

Gone are the days of oversized punch bowls and large fruit pies. When it comes to the trendiest food and drink to serve this holiday season, party planners say the best things are found in the smallest packages.

Chris Klugman, a catering company chef, notes that one of this year's party tricks is using specialty food items that are sold in small amounts. "People are looking for exquisite small things, little things that make (them) think that they're spoiled," he says.

Klugman says that fancy salts, rare artisan cheeses, rich pâtés and decadent specialty chocolates are all holiday party must-haves.

In order to further impress your guests, he suggests researching traditional family dishes and incorporating them into your party menu. "People are looking back towards what has been in the family in the past," he says. "It's not mind-blowingly innovative work, just really good quality, what your grandmother would have prepared."

Using pomegranate in desserts and salads is another au courant menu option, according to catering and events planner Melinda Limbertie. "It's just very festive, in its colour and its shape," she says.

Like Klugman, Limbertie says small portions of hearty comfort foods are popular. Party-goers will be craving soup and chili, as well as slow-cooked meats. Limbertie says braised short ribs and slow-cooked lamb shanks are this year's crowd-pleasers.

For dessert, offer your guests sweet treats such as mini macaroons, spicy Mexican hot chocolate, and pomegranate cheesecake.

Alongside the fabulous food, wine consultant Geoff Kahnert suggests breaking out the bubbly.

"If you're going to be doing holiday entertaining, a sparkling wine is the way to welcome people into your home," says Kahnert.

Other holiday cocktail trends include using cranberry juice, berry-flavoured vodkas and liqueurs, and fresh berry garnishes. Mixing up cocktails in large batches and keeping them in a beautiful pitcher is less fussy.

Whatever beverages you offer, Kahnert says the most important part of the holiday season is "to be a socially responsible host." Be aware of how much people are consuming, offer mocktails for those who do not drink alcohol, arrange for taxi pick-ups, and have someone monitoring the bar.

Rare artisan cheeses and fancy salts are holiday entertaining must-haves, as are slow-cooked meats and decadent chocolates.

Sutherland's star
Actor Kiefer Sutherland is to be honoured with the 2,377th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame tomorrow. IMDB.COM

Saddam story a soap opera

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

HUSSEIN ASYLUM: HBO Canada premiered the first two hours of House Of Saddam last night, half of the 4-hour miniseries dramatizing the reign of the late Saddam Hussein from his seizure of the presidency in 1979 to his death in 2006.

Perhaps because it was HBO — in association with the BBC — who put together the project, it's not surprising that the majority of the reviews have compared the show, and Yigal Naor's performance as Saddam, to The Sopranos, when they haven't been comparing it with The Godfather or Scarface.

It's a thickly curdled soap opera, cast with everyone from an Israeli (Naor), to an Italian-American (Philip Arditti as Uday Hussein, Saddam's psychopath son), and a Persian Oscar nominee (Shohreh Aghdashloo), and seemingly every actor who's been seen portraying an Arab in films large and small over the past decade or so, glimpsed in major roles or cameos.

It's possibly the most spoiler-proof film made in a generation; even political shut-ins should know the ending of this story.

Four hours gives the directors and writers behind the series room to shoehorn in as much as they can, from the opening, with its conspicuous parallel to the opening wedding party scene in the first Godfather film, to the King Lear-like passage at the end where Saddam wanders through American-held Iraq, attended by a loyal servant and a little boy and harassed by ants.

Yigal Naor.

In this final stretch, the film does its best to humanize the Iraqi dictator, but after everything we've seen so far, it actually feels more disturbing than the horror of ambition and delusion that preceded it. There's a relentless heaviness to the whole affair, set largely by Naor's rumbling impersonation of Saddam, which more than a few reviewers have compared to Darth Vader.

Most people won't have the stomach to make it to the end of all four hours (the second half airs next Sunday), and opponents of the U.S. invasion of Iraq won't find much to bolster the alternative with the painstaking dramatization of every bloody convulsion of Saddam's Stalinesque career.

The cast can take a good deal of credit for this — while some reviewers were clearly expecting a Dallas on the Euphrates, the performances of Naor, Arditti and Aghdashloo as well as the rest of the cast make things less lurid than vivid.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

In brief

NEW FILMS Capitalizing on her House Bunny hit, Anna Faris has set up two romantic comedy projects. Paramount has picked up an untitled pitch about two estranged sisters who team up to land a husband. Additionally, Columbia has acquired 20 Times a Lady which centers on a woman who goes on a trek through her sexual past in an effort to find Mr. Right.

NEW SERIES Shakespeare in Love star Joseph Fiennes will play the lead role in ABC's hot drama pilot Flash Forward, a sci-fi project eyed as a potential companion to Lost. Based on Robert J. Sawyer's sci-fi novel, Flash chronicles the chaos that ensues after everyone in the world passes out for 2 minutes and 17 seconds and has a mysterious vision of the future.

REUTERS

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VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/8/08	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Dragon's Den (N) (CC)		The Border (N) (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E! News	The Insider	Worst Week	How I Met	Boston Legal Crane Poole & Schmidt is in dire financial straits.				News (N)
	254	-	8	M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Big Bang Th	Big Bang Th	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: Miami (N) (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10	OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	Stargate SG-1 "Singularity"		One Tree Hill (CC)		The Daily	Perspectives	New Day
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Prison Break "Just Business"		Heroes "Our Father" (N)		My Own Worst Enemy (N)		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Two/Half Men	(:31) Adam Sandler's Eight Crazy Nights ★★			News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Chuck (N) (CC)		Rita Rocks	Rita Rocks	Curb-Enthsm	Less-Kind	EP Daily
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Privileged (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Big Bang Th	How I Met	Two/Half Men	Worst Week	CSI: Miami (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Chuck (N) (CC)		Heroes "Our Father" (N)		My Own Worst Enemy (N)		News (N)
	602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	How Clean	House	Love It or List It (N)		Confidential	Kim	House
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas		Boston Legal Crane Poole & Schmidt is in dire financial straits.				KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Loch Ness ★★ (1996) Ted Danson, Joely Richardson.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27	PBS	Steves Europe	Antiques	Antiques Roadshow (CC)		Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work (CC)			Roy Orbison & Friends	
	290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Sarah Connor Chronicles		Prison Break "Just Business"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43	PBS	Dr. Wayne Dyer: The Power		You on a Diet With Dr. Michael Roizen (CC)			Stay Rich Forever & Ever With Ed Slott (CC)			Bowfire (CC)
	296	654	64	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65	TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Gossip Girl (N) (CC)		Privileged (N) (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66	WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67	WPX	CW11 News at Ten (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76	STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Unit (CC)		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	26	NW	Pedigree Dogs Exposed (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Pedigree Dogs Exposed		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	World Combat League (CC)		Hockey	UFC: Access	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	NFL Football: Buccaneers at Panthers			SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		Strength	Billiards: International Chall.		SportsCentre
	411	457	49	OLN	Departures (CC)		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Pilot Guides (CC)		Departures
	410	403	54	SCR	WWE Monday Night Raw		(:15) Score Tonight		WWE Monday Night Raw (CC)				
	417	406	55	SC	Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series Banquet		Car		Auctions
	416	409	144	GLF	Fútbol Alemán: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		Ole: La Liga		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Fresh Prince	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Life's a Zoo
	557	541	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56	TRE	Christopher	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin (CC)	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Undersea	Landscape	History of Britain: Conquest!		George Eliot		Fatherhood Dreams		Haida Art
	575	583	20	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Gone Country	Gone Country	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24	MM	MuchNews	NewMusic	MuchVibe (CC)		So You Think You Can Dance Top four contestants perform.				MuchVibe
	600	564	29	H&G	Income Prop.	House	Holmes on Homes (CC)		Property	Marriage	Income Prop.	My First Place	Home to Stay
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		Intervention In-Depth: Meth		Intervention Crystal meth.		The First 48
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Ultimate Fighter		CSI: NY (CC)		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34	TLC	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	Little People	Little People	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	17 Kids-Count	17 Kids-Count	Little People
	616	522	39	SHO	Love-Death	Love-Death	Painkiller Jane Faith healer.		Kenny-Spenny	Rent-A-Goalie	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	The Office
	620	523	40	BVO	Dance Atlantic	Dance Me	Law & Order "Trade This"		Without a Trace (CC)		The Fallen Idol ★★★ (1948, Suspense)		
	601	562	41	SLC	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		ET Canada	Matchmaker	Tim Gunn's Guide to Style		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42	DIS	Canada's Worst Driver (N)		Daily Planet (CC)		Dirty Jobs (CC)		Canada's Worst Driver (CC)		MythBusters
	522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Mind Games" (CC)		Battle 360 "Call to Duty"		Underworld Histories (CC)		NCIS "Mind Games" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45	SPC	Eureka (CC)		Stargate SG-1 "Enigma"		Lost "Every Man for Himself"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47	TBS	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Spanglish ★★★ (2004) Adam Sandler, Téa Leoni. (CC)			
	619	525	48	TROP	TV Made	Very Bad Men (CC)		What	Make	TV Made	Planet Soap	Reality	Final 24 (CC)
	603	561	52	FN	Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge Pizza acrobats.		Good Eats	Ace of Cakes	Nightmares
	626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Dennis Leary Merry F...'in		Daily Show
	320	621	60	CEN	Stargate Atlantis "Infection"		Californication	Tracey Ullman	Brotherhood (N) (CC)		Zodiac ★★★ (2007) Jake Gyllenhaal. (CC)		
	581	566	101	MTV	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live	MTV News	Dance Life	The Hills	The Hills	After Show	MTV Live
	261	394	102	V	Emily of New Moon (CC)		Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman		Darling Buds of May (CC)		The Waltons "The Gift" (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	109	MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	It Will Be Difficult to Love		Marimar		Pinoy: That's Entertainment		Patrol World

critics'corner

Boston Legal
It's over? Say it isn't so! The always quirky, frequently funny, often poignant drama series comes to an end with an emotional two-hour episode. The firm is in dire straits and may need to be sold, but Alan (James Spader) has a more personal matter on his mind: getting hold of a nonapproved drug for Denny's (William Shatner) Alzheimer's. As Shirley and Carl (Candice Bergen, John Larroquette) plan their wedding, Denny pops a question of his own to Alan. 9 PM on ABC JOY

The Border
Aw, c'mon, people. He's here for medical reasons; cut him a break. A Tamil gang member from Britain arrives in Canada to obtain a lifesaving operation for his son. When his arrival leads to the escalation of gang violence here, the ICS is on the case. James McGowan, Sofia Milos, Catherine Disher, Mark Wilson and Nazneen Contractor star in the new episode "Unacceptable Risk." 9 PM on CBC

Amy Jo gives birth

Actress Amy Jo Johnson has welcomed her first child, a daughter. Francesca Christine was born at 9:09 p.m. last week, weighing 7 lbs., 1 oz. Dad is Johnson's fiancé Olivier Giner, 33. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Milano files for restraining order

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

LEGAL Actress Alyssa Milano has filed for a restraining order against an alleged stalker after he reportedly tried to break into her home on two occasions, imdb.com reports.

Milano filed the petition in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday claiming Jeff Turner, 54, has made frequent attempts to contact her over a two-year period, including trying to enter her L.A. home without permission.

According to E! News, the documents accuse Turner of being an "obsessed and mentally unstable fan" who has made statements "indicating that unless restrained the conduct is very likely to continue."

Milano also asks for the restraining order to prevent Turner from having contact with her immediate family, and that he must stay at least 100 yards from her and her home at all times.

An L.A. court hearing to decide if the order will be granted is set for Jan. 21.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Love at first sight

MARRIAGE Tom Cruise fell in love with Katie Holmes at first sight and rushed off to buy an engagement ring after their first date, imdb.com reports.

The actors' relationship has been subjected to much scrutiny by the public and media critics who have speculated their union was arranged and their romance is a farce.

But Cruise insists their marriage is the real deal and he has been in love with Holmes since he first set eyes on her.

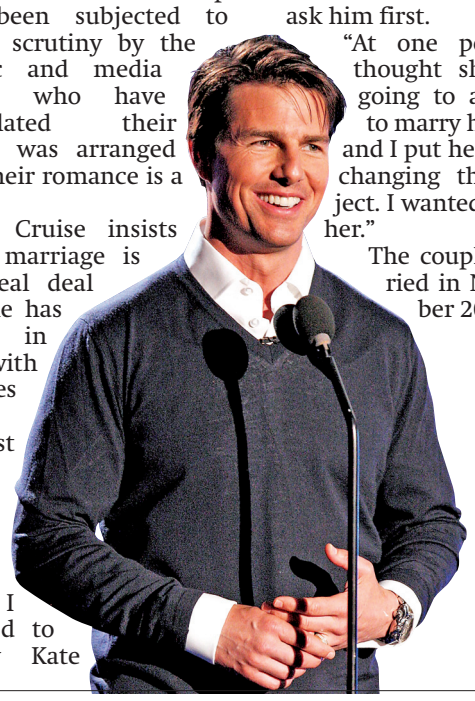
"I knew I wanted to marry Kate when I met her," Cruise tells the Dec. 7 issue of the New York Times Style Magazine.

He admits he proposed in a hurry in 2005, because he feared Holmes would ask him first.

"At one point, I thought she was going to ask me to marry her first and I put her off by changing the subject. I wanted to ask her."

The couple married in November 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kidman credits age for bravery

PEOPLE Actress Nicole Kidman is embracing her 40s, because she is braver now than she has ever been, imdb.com reports.

The Oscar winner faced a tough time as she took on her role in Baz Luhrmann's epic Australia, in which she had to live and shoot in the harsh conditions of the Australian outback. But the 41-year-old is adamant being a mature woman helped her cope with the extreme conditions, insisting she gains more courage with age.

"The older I get, the more I feel like I'm on a roller-coaster when I do a film," she tells Britain's The Independent newspaper. "I'm much more brave, and kind of throw myself into it and try not to worry if I fall flat on my face."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bynes won't date actors

RELATIONSHIPS Actress Amanda Bynes has vowed never to date another actor after an ex-boyfriend's cheating ways nearly "killed" her, imdb.com reports.

Bynes, 22, tells American Cosmopolitan magazine she was so shaken after her split with an unnamed actor she moved back in with her parents for two months to soothe her heartache.

"(He) ended up breaking my heart. I was so hurt. I'm a confident person, but it killed me," Bynes said.

Though she admits she's turned on by Hollywood's leading men, Bynes refuses to be another actor's arm candy.

"Obviously, Chace Crawford is gorgeous, but I wouldn't want to date him. He's too pretty. Maybe he's a very smart guy and maybe he's my soulmate but that's not the type I go for," Bynes added.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Goodwin, Klein split

BREAKUP Ginnifer Goodwin and Chris Klein have called it quits after two years of dating, People.com reports.

A friend of Goodwin tells People the split was mutual and amicable.

"They realized they wanted different things," says the friend. "In the long run, the relationship wasn't going to work."

With a busy winter ahead for Goodwin, 30, who returns to HBO's Big Love in January and stars in He's Just Not That Into You, opening in February, the actress plans to enjoy the single life for the time being.

"She's not interested in dating anyone just yet," the friend says.

Klein, 29, is also busy with work, returning to big screen in Street Fighter in February.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Beyonce talks about marriage

RELATIONSHIPS R&B singer Beyonce Knowles has confessed her marriage to Jay-Z is often a "power struggle," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Knowles, who wed the rapper in April, admits being part of a superstar couple is tough. But she insists she loves the pair's testing relationship, and would be "bored" without a headstrong husband.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Richie makes Joel go on diet

RELATIONSHIPS Nicole Richie has put her boyfriend Joel Madden on a diet, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The reality TV star, who has a 10-month-old daughter Harlow with Madden, has reportedly banned the Good Charlotte rocker from eating calorific foods because he has piled on the pounds since becoming a father in January.

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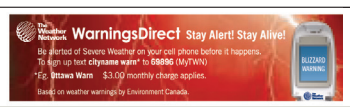
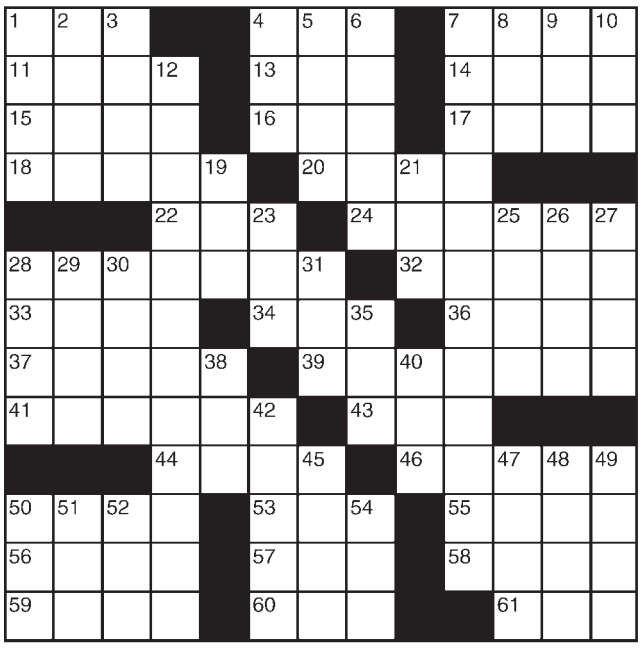
Today Partly sunny 7°/ 5°
Tuesday Rain 80% 7° / 4°
Wednesday Showers 40% 8° / 5°



For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Emotional one?
4 Watch chain
7 Pop duo, — and Jeremy
11 Magnificent tale
13 Nev. neighbor
14 Firetruck necessity
15 Opulent
16 Actor McBride
17 Church section
18 Recovery regimen
20 Cold War initials
22 Like 20-Across
24 Brunei bigwig
28 Hot water tanks
32 Liberace's instrument
33 Con
34 Assenter's vote
36 Sea eagle
37 Superman comparison
39 DeNiro's "Analyze This" co-star
41 Glum
43 — -jongg
44 Clarinet insert
46 Skewered entree
50 Nil
53 Have a bug
55 Therefore
56 State with certainty
57 Weep
58 Roman lyre player
59 Menial toiler
60 Golf prop
61 Apply lightly

Crossword down

1 Frau's mister
2 "... blackbirds, baked in —"
3 St. with two peninsulas
4 Govt. agcy.
5 Hawaiian island
6 Great joy
7 "Two and a Half Men" actor
8 Bound
9 Donkey
10 Ruby or Sandra
12 Snoopy's owner
19 Spelling contest
21 Dine
23 Parched
25 Bakery offering
26 Kournikova of tennis
27 Christmas refrain
28 Low voice
29 Aware of
30 Detail
31 Moment
35 Branch
38 Shelter
40 Tibetan critter
42 Do a double take
45 Catastrophic
47 Raised
48 Taj Mahal city
49 Nitwit
50 Use a ray gun
51 She raised Cain
52 Kanga's kid
54 Caustic solution

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone — one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4	7	9			6		
	3			4		1		
	1		3		6			
			5				3	
4			1		8			5
	9				2			
			8		3		2	
		8		7			5	
		1			9	4	6	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

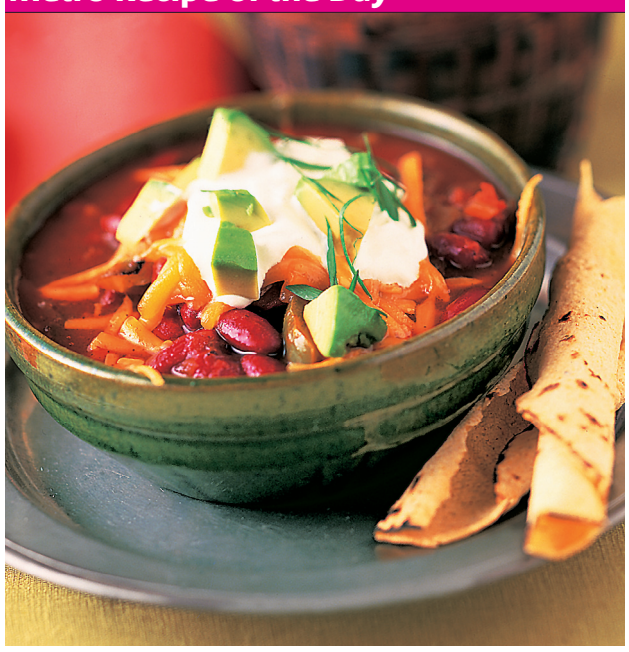
C	A	W	E	D	■	Y	A	M	■	B	E	G
A	G	A	P	E	■	A	L	E	■	E	M	U
P	O	L	E	R	■	W	A	L	L	A	C	E
■	■	L	E	M	A	N	S	■	E	K	E	S
M	A	O	■	A	B	E	■	A	S	S	E	T
A	L	P	S	■	O	R	A	L	S	■	■	■
R	A	S	P	E	D	■	F	L	O	W	E	R
■	■	■	I	D	E	S	T	■	N	A	V	E
R	E	T	R	O	■	P	E	W	■	L	E	D
A	R	I	A	■	C	E	R	E	A	L	■	■
W	A	L	L	O	O	N	■	A	B	A	T	E
E	S	T	■	R	I	D	■	R	U	B	I	N
R	E	S	■	E	L	S	■	S	T	Y	L	E

6	3	4	1	8	7	2	5	9
9	8	5	3	4	2	6	7	1
7	2	1	5	6	9	4	3	8
8	9	2	6	7	5	1	4	3
4	6	7	8	1	3	9	2	5
1	5	3	9	2	4	7	8	6
2	1	9	7	3	8	5	6	4
5	7	8	4	9	6	3	1	2
3	4	6	2	5	1	8	9	7

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day



Chili Beef Pots with Cheese

INGREDIENTS:

1 lb (500 g) lean ground beef
1 large onion, finely chopped
1 large green or red bell pepper, seeded and finely chopped
2 large garlic cloves, crushed
1 large can (400 g) chopped tomatoes
2/3 cup (150 mL) beef stock
1 large can (420 g) red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
1/2 tsp (2 mL) chili powder
1/2 tsp (2 mL) ground cumin
1/4 tsp (1 mL) ground cinnamon
Salt and freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup (125 mL) old cheddar, grated

TO SERVE:

Sour cream
Diced avocado
Chopped fresh coriander leaves
Soft flour tortillas, warmed

METHOD:

1. Put ground beef in a large, dry frying pan and brown over medium heat, for about 4–5 minutes.
2. Add onion, bell pepper and garlic and cook 5 minutes until onion is softened. Stir in tomatoes, stock, beans and spices. Bring to boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes. Season to taste.
3. Ladle hot chili into individual bowls and sprinkle with cheese.
4. Serve topped with sour cream, diced avocado and chopped coriander, with warmed tortillas on the side.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Frustration arises when confirming details of a message. Good humour is damaged by disagreements. Someone is at odds with your nature.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Confusion about a close friend is tiring. Don't lend or borrow money. Emotional patterns are obvious concerning a family quarrel.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't rush into a romantic fantasy. An adviser has a positive impact on your decisions. People comment on how lenient you are.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A family member suggests better arrangements. People's problems interfere with communications. A buddy wants to do something special.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
If Fate throws you a lemon — make lemonade. Focus on a goal for a job-related task. The least likely person will make you happy.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A foolish schemer is amusing, for a change. Set your boundaries firmly in place. Look within to make a personal discovery.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Refuse to be intimidated by a loved one. The intensity of tension leads to snippy remarks. A friend's depression is worsening.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Something peculiar causes the interception of a message. Don't hide your head in the sand. A late night chat gives a satisfying sleep.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Falling madly in love is a viable option. Money is recovered in unexpected ways. All will be well with an ailing person.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't expect a simple resolution to your doubts. A contemptuous person starts asking probing questions. Beneficial events develop in obscurity.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Everything works out as planned. Affection brings good cheer and renewed energy. An offensive person suffers humiliation.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Why the fittest survive will become clear. You don't want to know the ugly truth. Flee from an over-confident idealist.

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BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

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1. Tour givers on Caesar's bad day (1)
2. Noisy throng at the ballpark (1)
3. Wedding man's hotel reservations (1)
4. Heavily scheduled trumpeter Gillespie (2)
5. Captain's superior's horse race bets (2)
6. (With 7) Official declaration of giving ...
7. ... up on the articulation of every syllable (5)

ANSWERS
1. DES GLIDES 2. LOUD CROWD 3. GROOMS ROOMS 4. BUSY DIZZY
5. MAJORS WAGERS 6. ENUNCIATION 7. RENUNCIATION

12-8-08

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